













THE  
**HISTORY OF ENGLAND;**

DURING  
**THE REIGN OF GEORGE III.**

DESIGNED AS A CONTINUATION OF HUME AND SMOLLETT.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

LONDON :

J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1824.

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# HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

## CHAPTER XIX.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the enormities which had been committed by the French government, the hope that the revolution would finally be the means of promoting the cause of liberty throughout Europe, induced many persons in Great Britain to profess an ardent admiration of its political principles, and the reform societies were, at this period, extremely active throughout the kingdom. In Scotland a party zealous for reform had projected what they termed a national convention, and in October, 1793, a meeting was held in Edinburgh, which was attended by delegates from the London Corresponding Society, and from other societies of the same description in different parts of England and Ireland. The London Corresponding Society restricted its delegates to its original avowed object, the obtaining, by lawful means, universal suffrage and annual Parliaments; but it instructed them, at the same time, to enforce the duty of the people to resist any act of the Legislature, repugnant to the original principles of the constitution. The Edinburgh Convention foolishly



ated all the forms, names, and proceedings of French Jacobin clubs, with such difference and omissions only as their peculiar circumstances rendered necessary. The members hailed each other by the republican denomination of citizen; they divided themselves into sections; appointed committees of organization, of instruction, of finance, of secrecy, and of emergency; called their meetings sittings; granted honours of sittings, and dated their proceedings in the first year of the British Convention, one and indivisible. They, at first, assumed the distinctive appellation of the *General Convention of the Friends of the People*, but they afterwards took the name of the *British Convention of the Delegates of the People*, associated to obtain universal suffrage, and annual Parliaments; they adopted means for assembling the delegates, at any time when it should be deemed necessary for the societies to act, in consequence of any measures of precaution or coercion which the government might adopt, and they were fully prepared to carry their doctrine of resistance into effect. When they were thus emboldened, by their increased numbers, openly to avow their designs, the government thought it time to interrupt their proceedings. On the 5th and 6th of December, the magistrates of Edinburgh repaired to two of their places of meeting, where they seized the papers, and took the secretary and some of the leading members into custody. Three of these were afterwards brought to trial, William Skirving, the secretary, and two of the delegates from the London Corresponding Society, Maurice Margarot, and Joseph Gerald, before the High Court of Justiciary in Scotland, and, being all found guilty, they were sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

The Mountain party were now become the sole rulers of France. This dreadful despotism was composed of two councils, one of which was denominated the *Committee of Public Safety*, the other the *Committee of General Safety*. The members ought to have been renewed every month; but the Convention, intimidated by an armed mob, had intrusted these committees with the fatal power of imprisoning and judging its members; any deputy, therefore, who should have been hardy enough to propose a change, would have been denounced as a traitor, and sent to the revolutionary tribunal, which was the antechamber of death, and the very threshold of the grave.

The reigning party now proceeded to atrocities of which no former despotism afforded an example; its object appeared to be the extermination of all that was great and valuable in society; it attempted to reduce the community to one level—to degrade, that it might the more severely tyrannize over its victims; even moderation itself became a crime to be expiated only by death, and virtue received the reward due to atrocious crimes. If the father afforded any support to his exiled son, if the daughter wrote to her mother from her dungeon, the revolutionary tribunal doomed them to the scaffold. The external profession of the Christian religion was abolished by public decree, and an attempt was made to substitute for Christianity a sort of metaphysical Paganism. Those ecclesiastics who had seats in the Convention publicly abjured their creed, and were not ashamed to declare, that they had hitherto deceived the world: the archbishop and clergy of Paris renounced the Christian religion, declaring that they owned no temple but the sanctuary of the laws, no

God but liberty, no gospel but the constitution: the revolutionary tribunal condemned without distinction, and without inquiry, all the victims whom the tyrants marked out for destruction: proscriptions daily increased, and France was filled with accusers, prisons, and executioners. The number of persons who perished, during this reign of terror, cannot be ascertained by any authentic documents; but the prisons were filled and emptied with a horrid rapidity, and the scaffolds flowed daily with blood. The victim first in rank, if not in time, was the ill-fated consort of Louis the Sixteenth, Queen Marie Antoinette. On the 1st of August, she was suddenly removed to the prison of the Conciergerie, where she was treated as the meanest criminal; and on the 15th of October, she appeared before the tribunal to take her trial, or, to speak more correctly, to hear her doom pronounced. The act of accusation consisted of several charges, the principal of which was, that she had directed her views to a counter-revolution. One of the most singular of them was, that, in conjunction with the Gironde faction, she induced the King and the assembly to declare war against Austria, contrary to every principle of sound policy, and the public welfare, but the last charge was the most infamous, and the most incredible, *viz.* that, like Agrippina, she had held an incestuous commerce with her own son. The unfortunate Marie Antoinette heard the accusation with calmness, and as she continued silent, the president called upon her for a reply, when with great dignity she answered, "I held my peace because nature forbids a mother to reply to such a charge: but since I am compelled to it, I appeal to all the mothers who hear me, whether it be possible." Not one of the charges was proved.

but after consulting for about an hour, the jury found her guilty of the whole. With an unchanged countenance she heard the sentence of death pronounced, and left the hall without uttering a single word—without addressing herself either to her judges or the audience. On the succeeding day, the 16th, at about 11 o'clock, she was taken to execution in the same manner as the other victims of this dreadful tribunal; she ascended the scaffold with a firm and unhesitating step, and her behaviour at the awful moment of dissolution was decent and composed. Her body was interred in the same manner as that of her husband, in a grave filled with quick-lime.

The trial of the Queen had been immediately preceded by that of General Custine, who was charged with maintaining a secret correspondence with the enemy, and with leaving the garrison of Mentz unprovided with necessaries; with having disobeyed the orders of the Convention, and with not having exerted himself to prevent Valenciennes from falling into the hands of the allies. On these charges he was found guilty, and received sentence of death, which was carried into effect within twenty-four hours. On the 24th of October, the accused deputies of the Gironde party were brought before the revolutionary tribunal, and after a trial, in which both the principles and the forms of law were equally violated, were declared guilty of a conspiracy against the unity and indivisibility of the republic, and condemned to the guillotine. One of the deputies, Valazé, after hearing his sentence, stabbed himself at the bar of the tribunal, and on the 30th, the others, to the number of twenty-one, with Brissot at their head, were conveyed to the *Place de la Revolution*, and executed. Among them were several of those who had been

**most** active in dethroning the King, and establishing a republic. Valazé, who stabbed himself at the bar of the tribunal, was the member who prepared the charges against the unfortunate Louis. Manuel, who had been active in dethroning the King on the 10th of August, and afterwards evinced much solicitude to preserve his life, was soon after brought to trial, and executed. The trial of General Houchard immediately succeeded; he was accused of not cutting off the retreat of the British forces from West Flanders. With the revolutionary tribunal, accusation was synonymous with condemnation, and he also suffered by the guillotine. The veteran General Lucner, Bailly, the first mayor of Paris after the revolution, the accomplished Barnave, and Rabaut St. Etienne, also perished.

The condemnation of the Duke of Orleans, who had assumed the fantastical name of Philip Egalité, appears to have produced no sensations, either of horror, or of commiseration, in any party; so completely does a profligate life extinguish the respect, and excite the indignation, of mankind. This wretched and unworthy member of the Bourbon family, who had given his vote against the life of the King, was executed on the evening of the 6th of November, and bore, with a magnanimity which would have done honour to a better character, the insults and reproaches of the populace. The celebrated Madame Roland, whose noble character was the object of general admiration, and whose attachment to the party of the Gironde was the only crime alleged against her, was brought to the scaffold two days after the execution of the Duke of Orleans. When she was tied to the fatal plank, she lifted up her eyes to the statue of liberty, near which the guillotine was

placed, and exclaimed, "O liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name!" Her husband, the late minister of the interior, was shortly after found lifeless in a wood, near the high-road between Paris and Rouen; having, unable to bear the sad reflections which crowded upon him, put a period to his existence.

The formidable union which had taken place between the cities of Marseilles, Lyons, and Toulon, still subsisted, and threatened the speedy overthrow of the ruling tyranny, but this expectation proved fallacious. A considerable force was dispatched against those insurgents, under General Cartaux, in the latter end of July; and, in the beginning of August, the Marseillois were driven from the department of Vaucluse, which they had previously occupied. On the 24th of August, the republicans attacked and took the town of Aix; and immediately upon this success, the Marseillois opened their gates and submitted; but the people of Toulon, and the French Vice-Admiral Trugoff, entered into a negociation with the English admiral, Lord Hood, who was then cruizing in the Mediterranean, for the delivery of the port and fleet into the hands of the English in trust for Louis the Seventeenth, a negociation which after some difficulties was completed and carried into effect, and on the 23d of August, 1500 men were landed from the English fleet, who immediately took possession of Fort Malgue, by means of a detachment under Captain Elphinstone, as well as of the batteries at the mouth of the harbour. On this the French ships were warped into the inner road, according to agreement, and the Spanish admiral having joined next day, the combined squadrons anchored in the outer road; after which 1000 Spaniards were sent on shore to augment

the English garrison; Rear-Admiral Goodall was declared governor, and Rear-Admiral Gravina commandant of the troops. The condition on which this valuable arsenal was put into the hands of a British admiral was, that it was only to be considered as a deposit to be preserved for the use of the French King, Louis the Seventeenth, the inhabitants of Toulon declaring their intention of rejecting the constitution recently completed by the Convention, and of adhering to that decreed by the Constituent Assembly of 1789. It was further stipulated, that when peace should be re-established in France, the ships and forts which should be put into the hands of the English, should be restored to the French nation in the same state they were in when the inventory was delivered. The English immediately adopted the most sufficient means for placing Toulon in a state of complete defence; the adjacent hills were crowned with redoubts, the cross-fire from which seemed to interdict all approach; a new fort was constructed at Malbousquet; encampments were formed at St. Roch, at Equillete, and at Balaguier, the last of which was termed the Grand Camp by the English, and Little Gibraltar by the French; the redoubts were defended by heavy artillery, taken from the lower decks of the French line of battle ships; while a body of infantry from the Spanish army in the Rouissillon, 2000 Sicilian troops, under Brigadier-General Pignatelli, and a considerable detachment from the army of the King of Sardinia, consisting entirely of grenadiers and chasseurs, were sent to the succour of the garrison.

The surrender of this important sea-port induced the national commissioners to press the siege of Lyons with redoubled vigour, and on the 8th of October, after a most obstinate and gallant resistance, that

city, having sustained a siege of fifty-four days, and suffered almost as much from famine as the sword, was obliged to surrender. Collot d'Herbois, and his associates, having refused to grant any terms until the leaders of the insurrection had been delivered up, the chiefs, both civil and military, several of the principal inhabitants, and all those who considered themselves as proscribed by the Jacobins, to the amount of about 10,000, sallied forth from the city, to seek an asylum in a foreign land. A few waggons, containing the remnant of their scanty fortunes, and some four-pounders, followed this little army of fugitives, in the midst of which was to be seen a great number of females, determined not to abandon their husbands, and who, with their children in their arms, resolved to share their fate; scarcely, however, had they entered the defiles of St. Cyr and St. Germain, when they found themselves surrounded by nearly 50,000 men; and although they exhibited prodigies of valour upon this occasion, all resistance became vain; the greater part perished with arms in their hands; about 500 men and women, chiefly covered with wounds, experienced a worse fate, by falling alive into the hands of their enemies, for they were transferred from dungeon to dungeon, and ended their days by different kinds of punishment; and about sixty only escaped, who found an asylum among the neighbouring peasants. Nor was the fate of a great number of the inhabitants, who trusted to the mercy of the conquerors, more tolerable. One-fourth of the buildings had already been destroyed by the besiegers. The still more ferocious commissioners, not content with this, ordered the demolition of all the principal edifices; measures were actually taken to transport a large portion of the population to



another place; and a decree enjoined that the miserable remnant of this ancient city, hitherto so famous throughout all Europe on account of its rich manufactures, was no longer to be recognized by its former name, but to receive that of *Commune Affranchie*. In addition to this, orders were given to erect a column with the following inscription, to perpetuate the resistance and disgrace of Lyons, as well as the vengeance of its enemies:—"Lyons made war upon the republic: Lyons is no more!"

The rage of the victors was not confined to the destruction of houses and temples. The deputy Freron, on entering the devoted town, ordered a number of guillotines to be erected, and announced that terror was the order of the day. But he was surpassed in cruelty and ferocity by Collot d'Herbois, whose proconsulship in the south was one continued series of bloodshed. A chosen band of Parisian Jacobins, and a column of the revolutionary army, marched into Lyons as the precursors of his fury. The process of the axe was deemed too slow for his insatiable vengeance; sometimes the bayonets of the infantry, and sometimes the sabres of the cavalry, were employed as more conformable to the celerity of his vengeance; but at length grape-shot and artillery were resorted to, and the principal square, the theatre of his sanguinary exploits, was strewed with the dying and the dead, and became deluged with the blood of his victims.

The siege of Toulon was carried on, after the reduction of Lyons, with increased vigour. On the 14th of October, an action took place between the garrison, who had marched out to the defence of the redoubt of Malbousquet, and the army of General Cartaux, in which the English and their allies lost

about forty men, and the French about thirty. No return was made of the Toulonese who fell in the action. In the beginning of November, General Cartaux was ordered to the command of the army in Italy, and General Dagobert was appointed commander-in-chief. As the speedy capture of this great naval arsenal chiefly depended on the judicious management of the immense artillery employed against it, great pains were taken by the commander to find an engineer of ability, and he fixed on Napoleon Buonaparte, a native of Corsica, then a subaltern in the artillery, who, by his able conduct in the siege, laid the foundation of that military fame which afterwards enabled him to trample on the liberties of his country, and to give the law to continental Europe. About this period, Lieutenant-General O'Hara arrived from Gibraltar at Toulon, having been appointed governor and commander-in-chief.

The new engineer, aware that the possession of Malbousquet, one of the principal out-posts of Toulon, would enable him to bombard the town and arsenal, immediately opened a strong battery of heavy cannon and mortars on the heights of Arenes, which annoyed that position exceedingly, by means of an incessant fire of shot and shells. As it became necessary to take immediate and effectual measures for the security of so important a post, Governor O'Hara determined to destroy the new works, termed the Convention-Battery, and bring off the artillery. Having accordingly obtained a reinforcement of seamen from the fleet, to defend some redoubts whence he proposed to withdraw the soldiers, at five o'clock in the morning of the 30th of November he sent a detachment, consisting of 400 British, 300 Sardinians, 600 Neapolitans, 600 Spaniards,

and 400 French, under the command of Major-General David Dundas, who, notwithstanding they were all obliged to cross a river on a single bridge, to divide afterwards into four columns, and to ascend a very considerable height cut into vine terrasses, were fortunate enough to surprise the redoubt. Not content with this success, by which they had fully effected all the objects of the expedition, the troops, flushed with victory, and trusting to their good fortune, rushed forward, and descended the hill after a flying enemy. This unlucky incident was not overlooked by the French generals, who immediately advanced with a considerable body of troops, attacked the assailants, now in disorder by the rapidity of their pursuit and the unevenness of the country, and obliged them in their turn to retire with precipitation. General O'Hara, on this occasion, received a wound in the arm, and being rendered faint by the loss of blood, was obliged to sit down under a wall, where he was taken prisoner; several other officers also fell into the hands of the French. The events of this day, added to the capture of the brave officer who had acted both in the capacity of governor and military commander, contributed not a little to raise the expectations of the besiegers; they now began to make nearer approaches to the place, and, by means of their batteries, not only attacked the posts of Malbousquet, Le Brun, and Fort Mulgrave, on the heights of Balaguier, at the same time, but threatened a general assault. Nor were these events to be despised. The garrison at this period was reduced to the most alarming situation; and the enemy, whose force was constantly increasing, amounted to nearly 40,000 men, commanded by an able general, while the batteries were managed un-

der the direction of one of the best engineers of his age. On the other hand, the allied troops, composed of five different nations and languages, never exceeded 12,000 rank and file. With these, now greatly diminished by death and disease, a circumference of fifteen miles, for the defence of the town and harbour, was to be occupied and defended, by means of eight principal and several intermediate posts, which alone required nearly 9000 men. The French, being determined to push on the siege with increased vigour, relieved such of their troops as were fatigued, by fresh ones, and at two o'clock in the morning, opened two new batteries on Fort Mulgrave, and from these and the three former ones continued a very heavy cannonade and bombardment, which killed many of the troops, and destroyed the works. As the weather proved rainy, they afterwards found means to assemble a large body of forces secretly, with which they stormed the fortification, and entered with screwed bayonets by that side defended by the Spaniards. On this the British, and such of the other troops as had not been killed during the assault, were obliged to retire towards the shore of Balagnier. At day-break, another attack took place on all the posts occupied by the garrison on the mountain of Faron. They were repulsed, however, on the east side, by about 700 men, commanded by Colonel Le Jermagnan, a Piedmontese officer, who perished upon this occasion; but they found means to penetrate by the back of the mountain, although 1800 feet high, and deemed inaccessible, so as to occupy the side which overlooks Toulon.

A council of flag and general officers now assembled; and as it was deemed impracticable to regain

the posts that had been taken, and the town was not tenable while they remained in possession of the enemy, it was determined to evacuate it; the troops were accordingly withdrawn, and in the course of that evening the combined fleet occupied a new station in the outer road. Early next morning, the sick, wounded, and British field artillery, were sent off; the Neapolitans, after abandoning the port of Misissey without orders, embarked at noon, and measures were taken to withdraw the British, Piedmontese, and Spaniards, amounting to about 7000 men, during the night. As the enemy now commanded the town, as well as some of the ships, by their shot and shells, it became necessary that the retreat should take place as speedily as possible. Lord Hood accordingly gave orders for the boats of the fleet to assemble by eleven o'clock near Fort Malue for that purpose. He had also settled a plan for destroying all the French men of war and the arsenal, but was prevented, by the sudden and unexpected evacuation that took place, from carrying his intentions fully into execution. Having intrusted that service to Sir Sydney Smith, the latter, on entering the dock-yard, found that the artificers had already substituted the three-coloured cockade for the white one, while about 600 galley slaves, who had broken their fetters, were jealous of his operations, and would have exhibited a determined resistance, had he not pointed the guns of two vessels, to keep them in awe. After this, he set fire to ten ships of the line and the arsenal, as well as to the malthouse, the great store-house, and other buildings; but the calmness of the evening prevented much of the effect expected from the conflagration: in the mean time, the Spaniards, instead of scuttling and

sinking, set fire to the powder ships, and they as well as the English were foiled in the attempt of cutting the boom, and destroying the men of war in the bason, in consequence of repeated volleys of musketry from the flag-ship, and the wall of the royal battery; the *Hero* and *Themistocles* were, however, set on fire, and the party left for this purpose, after a most desperate service, effected their retreat; by day-light next morning, all the British, Spanish, and Sicilian ships, crowded with the unfortunate inhabitants, were out of the reach of the enemy's vengeance. Admiral Trugoff, on board the *Commerce de Marseilles*, with the *Puissant* and *Pompée*, two other ships of the line, and the *Pearl*, *Arethusa*, and *Topaze*, frigates, with several corvettes, formed part of the English fleet, with which Lord Hood proceeded to *Hieres Bay*, and soon after landed the men, women, and children, with which his decks were encumbered. Of thirty-one ships of the line which the English found at *Toulon*, thirteen were left behind, nine were burnt there, and one at *Leghorn*; and four Lord Hood had previously sent away to the French ports of *Brest* and *Rochfort*, with 5000 republican seamen, whom he was afraid to trust, Britain therefore obtained only three ships of the line and five frigates, which were all that the admiral was able to take off.

Thus, after a siege of about three months, and at incessant assault of five successive days and nights. *Toulon* was restored to France; the besieging army, which provided 4000 ladders for an assault, having entered it at seven o'clock in the morning subsequent to the evacuation. Of the inhabitants who had borne arms against their country, or favoured the cause of the allies, some still remained, and these either put

an end to their existence by a voluntary death, or perished by the guillotine or the musket. Here, as well as at Marseilles and Lyons, the most cruel punishments were inflicted on the royalists; and the conquerors not only sullied their victory, but disgraced themselves, by a terrible and indiscriminate carnage; workmen were actually invited from all the neighbouring departments to destroy the principal houses; the population became visibly decreased by the daily butchery that took place; the name of *Port de la Montagne* was substituted for that of Toulon, and a grand festival decreed in honour of the French army.

The men in power at this period seemed desirous of effecting the abolition of the Christian religion throughout France, and that nothing in the calendar might bear any stamp of former religious observances, the Convention decreed a new one, by which the year was divided into twelve months, of thirty days each, with five intercalary days, which were dedicated to national festivities: each month was divided into decades, and the day of rest was appointed for every tenth day, instead of every seventh.

In consequence of a report from the committee of Public Safety, all Frenchmen were now declared, by a solemn decree of the Convention, to be at the service of their country, until its enemies should be chased from the territories of the republic. “The young men shall march to the combat; (said this decree;) the married ones shall forge arms and transport provisions; the women shall fabricate tents and clothes, and attend the military hospitals; the children shall make lint to serve as dressings for the wounds of the patriots; while the old men shall cause themselves to be carried to the public squares to excite the courage

of the warriors, to preach the unity of the republic, and inspire hatred against Kings." To supply the wants of the immense armies now about to be collected from all quarters, measures of a new and extraordinary kind were adopted. Assignats were not only fabricated and expended in immense quantities, but their value was maintained for some time at a rate nearly equivalent to that of gold ; and when this resource began to fail, revolutionary taxes were imposed. The system of requisition was at length recurred to, and all the necessaries of life appertaining to citizens in easy circumstances were seized upon, in the name of the republic, and for the support of its troops, while the great cities were crowded with manufactures of saltpetre, the towns were converted into founderies, and the ancient palaces metamorphosed into arsenals to supply the elements of destruction. At the very moment that the idea of a nation's rising *en masse* was ridiculed throughout Europe, the Convention, on the proposition of the committee of Public Safety, had either augmented or created eleven distinct armies, which seemed to form a chain round the frontiers of France. All the unmarried males, from eighteen to forty years of age, were put in permanent requisition, and a draught of 300,000 made at one time. These immense resources enabled them to strengthen and new model the army of the north, extending from Dunkirk to Maubege ; that of the Ardennes, reaching from Maubege to Longwy ; that of the Moselle, from Longwy to Bitche ; that of the Rhine, from Bitche to Porentrui ; that of the Alps, from the Aisne to the borders of the Var ; that of Italy, from the Maritime Alps to the mouth of the Rhone ; the army of the Oriental Pyrenees, from the mouth of the Rhone to the Garonne ; the army of the



Western Pyrenees, from the department of the Upper Pyrenees to the mouth of the Gironde; the army of the coasts of Rochelle, from the mouth of the Gironde to that of the Loire; the army of the coasts of Brest, from the mouth of the Loire to St. Maloes; and, lastly, that of the coasts of Cherbourg, from St. Maloes to the northern department.

On the Rhine the allies under the Duke of Brunswick and General Wurmser were for some time victorious, but in the latter part of November the French were rendered so much superior in number that they were always able to out-flank their opponents. Wurmser, having failed in an attempt to gain possession of Strasburg, retired to Haguenau, where the French, after repeated attacks, forced the strong lines and obliged the Austrians to retire across the Rhine. The Prussians afterwards relinquished the siege of Landau, and the Duke of Brunswick went into winter quarters at Mentz. On the Spanish border various actions took place between the troops of Spain and France, in which the former were successful, but the war in this quarter was of very subordinate importance. In Italy, the county of Nice was the scene of some actions between the Sardinian and French troops, which were generally favourable to the former; Genoa, which had manifested a disposition to take part with the French, was overawed by the English fleet; and the Duke of Tuscany was induced, by the representations of the British minister, to declare against France.

Parliament assembled on the 21st of January, 1794; and never did it meet at a more interesting period; at a time when more subjects of great importance pressed upon its attention. The King, in his opening speech, observed, that he and his subjects

were engaged in a momentous contest, on the issue of which depended the maintenance of the constitution, laws, and religion of the country, and the security of all civil society. Having mentioned the advantages obtained by the arms of the confederate powers, he added, that the circumstances by which their farther progress had been impeded, not only proved the necessity of vigour and perseverance, but confirmed the expectation of ultimate success. Their enemies, his Majesty observed, had derived the means of temporary exertion from a system which had enabled them to dispose arbitrarily of the lives and property of a numerous people; but these efforts, productive as they had been of internal discontent and confusion, tended rapidly to exhaust the national and real strength of the country. He regretted the necessity of continuing the war; but he thought he should ill consult the essential interests of his people, if he desired peace on any grounds exclusive of a due provision for their permanent safety, and for the independence and security of Europe. Referring to the true grounds of the war, he begged Parliament to recollect, that an attack had been made on him and his allies, founded on principles tending to the destruction of all property, to the subversion of the laws and religion of every civilized nation, and to the general introduction of a horrible system of rapine, anarchy, and impiety. An amendment to the address was moved by the Earl of Guildford, who wished for a speedy negociation, as we had rushed into war without necessity; but the Duke of Portland justified the war as strictly defensive, and as necessary for the preservation of the Christian religion, political and civil liberty, law, and order. The Duke of Norfolk asserted, that he had as strong a

zeal for the support of our constitution as any Peer of the realm, but he was not impelled by that zeal to an encouragement of the war, as he did not conceive that our happy establishments were endangered by the proceedings of the French. Lord Grenville endeavoured to show, from the convulsed state of that country, the fallacy of all hopes of a successful negotiation. On a division, the address was carried, by 97 against 12. In the Commons, the address was moved by Lord Clifden, to which Mr. Fox proposed an amendment, recommending to his Majesty to treat for a peace with France upon safe and honourable terms, without any reference to its existing form of government. After a warm debate, which was protracted to a late hour, the address was carried by 277 against 59.

On the 29th of January, Lord Arden brought forward a motion for a supply of 85,000 seamen, including 12,115 marines, for the service of the present year, and on the 3d of the following month, he further moved that the land forces should consist of 60,244 men, including 3382 invalids, both of which motions were carried.

On the 17th of February, the Marquis of Lansdowne moved an address, "to represent to his Majesty the extreme improbability of conquering France; that the dismemberment of France, if attainable, would augment the strength of the powers most to be dreaded; that opinions cannot be controlled by arms; that experience has demonstrated the futility of every attempt to interfere in the internal government of France, even if the justice were problematical; and that we must incur the keenest reproaches, if we encouraged farther revolts in a country where we had been unable to save those who put confidence

in us from extermination and ruin—therefore to implore his Majesty to declare, without delay, his disposition to make peace upon such just, disinterested, and liberal terms, as were calculated to render the peace lasting; and that he would signify this intention to his allies, that a stop might be put to the effusion of human blood.” The Duke of Grafton seconded the motion; but it was strenuously opposed by Lord Grenville, and ultimately negatived, by 103 against 13.

A royal message was delivered on the 12th of May, referring to the seditious practices of democratic societies, and intimating the necessity of taking measures for baffling their dangerous designs. The papers belonging to these clubs were examined by a committee; and in a report subsequently presented by Mr. Pitt, it was affirmed, as the result of the inquiry, that the *Society for Constitutional Information*, and the *London Corresponding Society*, under the pretence of reform, aimed at the subversion of the government; that other associations, in different parts of the kingdom, pursued the same object; that they had endeavoured to promote a general convention of the people; that they had provided arms for the more effectual prosecution of their nefarious purposes; that meetings of popular delegates took place at Edinburgh, in 1792, and the following year; that their proceedings were regulated on the French model; and that, after the dispersion of this convention, the two leading societies exerted their efforts to procure a similar meeting in England, which should supersede the authority of Parliament. The minister, in consequence, proposed that the *habeas corpus* act should be suspended in cases of treason and sedition. Mr. Fox was of opinion, that

this stretch of power was not justified by the evidence which had been adduced against the associations; and Mr. Sheridan deprecated, as unconstitutional and dangerous, the grant of an arbitrary power of imprisonment. Mr. Burke, however, felt convinced that the power in question would not be abused, and that it would be attended with salutary effects; and Mr. Windham advised the strongest measures of coercion. The bill of suspension was rapidly enacted; and after spirited debates, an address was voted, promising the strenuous co-operation of the two Houses with the executive power, for the suppression of all seditious attempts, treasonable conspiracies, &c.

The state trials pending at this crisis heightened the alarm which universally prevailed. At the Lancaster spring assizes, this year, Mr. Thomas Walker, of Manchester, a strenuous advocate for Parliamentary reform, at whose house meetings for political purposes were occasionally held, was indicted for conspiring, with nine other persons, to overturn the constitution by force of arms, and to assist the French in case of invasion. To establish this charge, involving in its consequences, not only the character, but the life of the accused, the principal evidence adduced was a person of the name of Dunn, whose testimony was so contradictory and absurd, that the prosecution was abandoned by the counsel for the crown; and Mr. Walker was honourably acquitted, without being put upon his defence, while his accuser was committed to prison, to take his trial for perjury.

In the month of September, the trial of two persons at Edinburgh, who had been committed on a charge of high treason, took place under a special commission. On the 3d of that month, Robert Watt,

a government spy, was tried and convicted of high treason. It appeared, that he had formed a romantic project for seizing, by force, upon the castle of Edinburgh, as well as upon the persons of the principal judicial and municipal officers of that city, together with the bank and the excise-office. This intention he had communicated to several persons, who all refused to come into his plans, except David Downie, an illiterate mechanic. That Watt had conspired to levy war against the King, there could be no doubt, but as he had not actually levied it, it was contended that his offence did not come within the legal construction of the statute of Edward the Third. The prisoner, in his defence, asserted, and produced letters in court from Mr. Secretary Dundas, in support of that assertion, that he had been retained as a spy in the service of government, and had received money from them, for his services. The prisoner's counsel, therefore, contended, that what their client had done was with no other view than to arrive more completely at the knowledge of the secrets of those persons whose conduct he was to observe, and by appearing zealous in the same cause, to cover his real intentions, of betraying these counsels, and bringing to punishment the enemies of their sovereign. The jury, however, pronounced the prisoner guilty, the judge passed the sentence of death upon him, and he was consequently executed. Downie was also convicted; but the jury recommended him to mercy, which he had the good fortune to obtain.

A dreadful rumour was at this time suddenly raised, of a design to assassinate the King. The persons implicated were Le Maitre, an apprentice to a watchmaker, in Denmark-street; William Higgins, apprentice to a chemist, in Fleet-street; and a man of

the name of Smith, who kept a book stall in the vicinity of Lincoln's Inn. Their accuser was a young man of the name of Upton, an apprentice to a watch-maker. The conspirators were apprehended by a warrant from the Duke of Portland, on the 27th of September, and underwent several examinations before the privy council. The charge, resting on the evidence of Upton, was that an instrument was to have been constructed by the informer, Upton, in the form of a walking-stick, in which was to have been inserted a brass tube, of two feet long; through this tube a poisoned dart or arrow was to have been blown by the breath of Le Maitre at his Majesty, either on the Terrace at Windsor, or in the play-house. The poison prepared was to have been of so subtle a nature, that if the point but glanced upon the King, it was to have produced instantaneous death. This story for some time obtained credit, and the persons accused were committed for trial; but after a long and severe imprisonment, the evidence against them was found so inconsistent, absurd, and incredible, that the affair fell into contempt, under the popular designation of the "Pop-gun-plot," and the men were liberated, without trial.

More important proceedings were now about to take place in the Sessions' House, at Clerkenwell, on which the attention of the whole country was rivetted with intense anxiety. On the 25th of October, Thomas Hardy, a shoe-maker, in Piccadilly, who had acted as secretary to the London Corresponding Society; Daniel Adams, the secretary to the Society for Constitutional Information; John Horne Tooke, the philologist; the Rev. Jeremiah Joyce, preceptor to Lord Mahon; John Thelwall, the political lecturer; Thomas Holcroft, the dramatist;

J. A. Bonney; Steward Kyd; John Richter; and John Baxter, were all arraigned at the Old Bailey, before the president of the Special Commission, Lord Chief Justice Eyre. The indictment was of an uncommon length, and contained no less than nine overt acts of high treason, all resolving themselves into the general charge, that these persons did conspire to summon delegates to a national convention, with a view to subvert the government, to levy war against the existing authorities of the country, and to depose the King. The court, at the request of the prisoners, determined that they should be tried separately, and Mr. Hardy was the first of the number put upon his trial. The opening speech of Sir John Scott, the Attorney-General, occupied nine hours in the delivery, and consisted chiefly of a recapitulation of the facts set forth in the reports of the secret committee of the House of Commons. The written evidence consisted principally of advertisements, addresses, &c. published in the newspapers, and of several private letters, which had been seized among the papers of the prisoners. Many of these papers were written in an intemperate, and even inflammatory style, with respect to ministers and other persons in authority, but none of them could by fairness of construction be construed into high treason. On the parole evidence, the Attorney-General drew a very candid and necessary distinction, observing, that some of the witnesses were above all exception, and some were persons employed by the government to watch over the proceedings of these societies. The grand object at which these associations ostensibly aimed, was a reform in Parliament, upon the principles of the Duke of Richmond, universal suffrage and annual elections; and as these societies con-



tained a large portion of converts to the doctrines of Paine, many of the members, in the height of their enthusiasm, contemplated the establishment of a democratic government. An attempt was made, on the part of the crown-lawyers, to show that the associations in question had armed themselves against the government; but in this they did not succeed. The defence of Mr. Hardy, by Mr. Erskine, was considered as a model of forensic eloquence. After a number of witnesses had been called by the prisoner's counsel, principally for the purpose of proving that the prisoner was of irreproachable character, and that he was a peaceable and inoffensive man, the defence was concluded very ably by Mr. Gibbs. The trial was protracted to the length of seven days, and the evidence being closed, the jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

On Monday the 17th of November, Mr. John Horne Tooke, formerly, and for many years, a clergyman of the Established Church, a man possessed of extraordinary intellectual talents, but of a peculiar kind, and mixed with a considerable alloy of eccentricity, was brought to the bar. On the trial it appeared, to the general surprise of the court, that Mr. Tooke had been a remarkably guarded and temperate advocate of reform; that he very rarely attended the meetings of the societies; and had even incurred their suspicion and dislike on that account. He had frequently declared his attachment to the House of Peers, as an useful and necessary branch of the constitution; and had uniformly reprobated the Duke of Richmond's plan of reform; in proof of which it appeared, that in a conversation with Major Cartwright on the subject of reform, he made use of the following familiar, but expressive illustration: "You would go to

Windsor, but I should choose to stop at Hounslow." Some difficulty having arisen in the course of the trial concerning the identity of the prisoner's handwriting, Mr. Tooke offered himself to identify it whenever it appeared, adding:—"I protest I never have done an act—I protest I have never had a sentiment—I protest I have never had a thought of any political nature, which, taken fairly, I have the smallest degree of disposition not now to admit. I am anxious that my life and character should go together, and I wish to admit all that I have said, done, or written." Mr. Pitt was examined on the part of the prisoner, in order to prove that the meeting at the Thatched House Tavern, in 1782, of which he was a member, had the same objects in view as the societies of the present time; he recollected that Mr. Tooke had been present at one of those meetings, the sense of which was that means should be used to recommend a petition to Parliament, in order to procure a reform, but there was no such idea as a convention of the people, or affiliated societies, and he did not consider it as a meeting of persons authorized to act for any but themselves; Mr. Sheridan, on the other hand, said that he met Mr. Tooke in 1780 at a convention or meeting of delegates, at the Duke of Richmond's and other places, he himself attending as a delegate for Westminster. The evidence having been closed, on the 22d of November, the jury retired, and in a few minutes returned a verdict of Not Guilty. An involuntary burst of acclamation instantly filled the court, and was re-echoed by the populace without, who, as on the former occasion, escorted the counsel, Messrs. Erskine and Gibbs, to their chambers. The prosecution of the members of the Constitutional Society ended with the trial of Mr.

Tooke; and on Monday, the 1st of December, a jury being empannelled *pro forma*, Messrs. Bonney, Joyce, Kyd, and Holcroft, were acquitted and discharged. The trial of Mr. Thelwall commenced on the same day, and terminated in the same manner as the other state trials, no new evidence being adduced against him, except some intemperate expressions which he was said to have used at a meeting at Chalk Farm, and in his lecture room, but the evidence resting on the authority of Lynam and Taylor, reputed spies, whose testimony was rendered nugatory by that of two other witnesses, he was acquitted. All the other prosecutions were then abandoned by the crown lawyers, and those who had been indicted were liberated from confinement.

That the jury acted most conscientiously in acquitting the prisoners of the charge of high treason there can be no doubt; but the result of the investigation by the Grand Jury, who found true bills against the prisoners, was a sufficient justification of the prosecutions. Whoever is acquainted with the nature of the evidence required to convict a British subject of so heinous a crime, will be slow to draw the hasty inference that the prisoners were all perfectly innocent; and, indeed, had they been tried for a misdemeanour, they would very probably have been convicted: their acquittal raised the spirits of the disaffected, who openly triumphed in the victory they had obtained, not perceiving that this victory was the highest eulogy which could be pronounced on the British laws; and when the proceedings against persons charged with political crimes in France, were compared with these trials, the comparison could not fail to excite, in the breast of every honest Briton, the proudest feelings of exultation.

The trials which had taken place in Scotland, particularly those of Thomas Muir, and the Reverend Fysche Palmer, the former a Scotch barrister, and the latter a Unitarian preacher at Dundee, who had been convicted of sedition in the autumn of 1793, and sentenced to transportation, excited considerable alarm among their friends and associates in England, and attracted the attention even of some members of the British senate, who condemned their conduct while they deplored their fate. Mr. Adam, a barrister of some eminence, had given notice, early in the session, of his intention to move for permission to bring in a bill for subjecting the sentence of the Scotch judges, in criminal cases, to an appeal to the British House of Lords. He accordingly brought forward his motion on the 4th of February; but it was negatived by 126 against 31. It was next treated as a matter of doubt, whether the Court of Justiciary had not exceeded the limits of their power in substituting the punishment of transportation for that of banishment, imposed by the act of Queen Anne, for the offence charged upon the above-named persons, whose characters in private life, however mistaken in their public opinions and conduct, were admitted to be in the highest degree respectable; Mr. Adam therefore moved, on the 10th of March, for a copy of the record to be laid before the House, upon the ground of which he meant to question the legality of the sentence; and if his arguments prevailed with the House, as no appeal could lie from the conviction, he should propose an address to his Majesty in favour of these unfortunate men. Mr. Pitt, however, insisted, that no doubt could be entertained, either of the legality of the trials, or the propriety with which the Lords of Justiciary had exer-

cised their discretion on that occasion ; and the question was lost, on a division, by 139 against 32 voices. On the 25th, Mr. Adam introduced a third motion, supported by a long chain of facts and reasonings, relative to the regulation of the justiciary courts of Scotland, purporting to bring their general practice nearer to that of the English courts ; Mr. Secretary Dundas, however, contended, that the Scottish nation was very happy under its own laws ; that the alterations proposed would be a violation of the articles of the union ; and that the reform really wanting, was to assimilate the English law of sedition, in a certain degree, to that of Scotland. The motion was negatived by 77 against 24.

Among the military plans in agitation at this time, was a projected expedition to the coast of France, with a view to co-operate with the loyalists in Brittany, and in the neighbouring districts, and a body of Hessian troops, in the pay of England, was destined for this service. As the preparations, however, were not in a sufficient state of forwardness when these troops arrived from the continent, and sickness would be produced by detaining them on board the transports, till every thing was ready for carrying the plan into effect, it was deemed proper to put them into temporary quarters, at Portsmouth, in the Isle of Wight, and in other convenient places, near the coast. This circumstance was communicated to Parliament, in a message from his Majesty, on the 27th of March. As many similar cases had occurred at different periods, and as the cause and necessity of the measure were so perfectly obvious, it was concluded, that the usual communication of the fact to Parliament would be satisfactory ; the opposition, however, contended, that the minister ought to have

moved for a bill of indemnity ; and he was charged with having violated the Bill of Rights, and the Act of Settlement. Mr. Grey, on the 10th of February, moved, as a resolution of the House, “ that to employ foreigners in any situation of military trust, or to bring foreign troops into the kingdom, without the consent of Parliament first had and obtained, is contrary to law,” which motion was negatived, and the subject was afterwards renewed, in both Houses, by propositions for a bill of indemnity, but with no better success, ministers contending that it would be absurd to pretend to indemnify measures which were in themselves justifiable, and not unconstitutional.

Mr. Wilberforce’s Bill for abolishing that part of the slave-trade which related to the supply of foreign plantations, passed the House of Commons, under the patronage of Mr. Pitt, but was thrown out in the Lords, in consequence of the avowed disapprobation of Lord Grenville, who considered it to be ill-timed, pending the inquiry instituted in that House respecting the general question. A motion by Bishop Horsley for referring to a committee the further hearing of evidence concerning the Slave Trade was also negatived.

A message was delivered from the King, on the 22d of February, purporting, that the avowed intentions of the enemy to invade this country made an increase of the land-forces necessary ; and an address was voted by the House, assuring his Majesty of their zealous concurrence in every exertion which became a brave and loyal people, in the prosecution of this just and necessary war. A great augmentation of the militia, and an addition of volunteer fencible corps, were accordingly voted, and the expedient of soliciting voluntary contributions, by a formal

letter written by the Secretary of State to the Lords-Lieutenant of the several counties, was successfully resorted to, though strongly opposed as highly illegal, and contrary to the spirit of the British constitution; and on the 28th of March Mr. Sheridan moved, that it was dangerous and unconstitutional for the people of this country to make any loan, &c. to the crown, to be used for any public purpose, without the previous consent of Parliament. The question was considered as one which could be neither universally affirmed nor universally denied, and the motion was negatived by a considerable majority, as was a similar one by Lord Lauderdale in the House of Peers. Very considerable discussion also arose on a bill, introduced by Mr. Pitt on the 1st of April, for the encouragement of those who should voluntarily enrol themselves for the general defence of the kingdom during the war, and on another, the object of which was to enable Frenchmen to enlist in his Majesty's service on the continent, or, in other words, for employing the French emigrants in a military capacity. In the debate upon this question, Mr. Burke, who soon afterwards vacated his seat in Parliament, entered, with his usual vivacity, into an eulogium on the ancient government of France, and an invective against the present, and the motion was carried by a majority of 185. The requisite supply for the present year amounted to nearly 20,000,000*l.* and the ways and means included some new taxes, and a loan of 11,000,000*l.* Persons professing the Roman Catholic religion were exempted from the customary charge of double land tax.

Among several attempts which were made by the opposition to put an end to the war, Mr. Whitbread moved an address to the King, on the 6th of March,

strongly expressive of disapprobation of the conduct of ministers, and of those measures which had preceded and succeeded the declaration of war; lamenting that his Majesty should have been advised to make a common cause with powers whose objects were undefined, but who, as there was much ground to fear, prosecuted the war with views, and for purposes, solemnly disavowed by his Majesty, and abhorrent to the principles of a free nation; and requesting his Majesty to extricate himself from his present engagements, as they prevented his concluding a separate peace. This motion, and a similar one, made by the Earl of Guildford in the House of Lords, were negatived by great majorities. The Duke of Bedford, who had already distinguished himself as a speaker, called likewise the attention of the Peers to the important subject of peace, on the 30th of May, when he submitted a series of propositions, fourteen in number. With respect to the question, how a *permanent* peace was to be made with France, his grace professed himself at a loss to comprehend the force of the epithet. As applied to treaties between nations, no peace had ever been, or could ever be permanent, which it suited the interest or inclinations of either party to break; and a peace concluded at the present time was as likely to be permanent as at any other. Lord Hawkesbury opposed the motion upon the ground of its being an improper interference with the royal prerogative. There were, he said, no hopes of a permanent peace with the French; the speediest method of obtaining it would be by a change in that government. We were justified in our endeavours to effect this object in every practicable way; and their making war upon us unprovoked, undoubtedly gave us new rights; and



this, none who understood the law of nations could possibly call in question. The resolutions were disposed of by an adjournment, and a similar motion, proposed by Mr. Fox on the same day in the House of Commons, was also lost by a majority of 110 against 57, in favour of the previous question. The debates on these topics served only to display the irreconcilable differences of opinion between the two parties, and the great superiority of numbers by which the measures of government were supported. The conduct and policy of administration was also severely animadverted upon by Major Maitland, brother to the Earl of Lauderdale, on the 10th of April, in an unsuccessful motion for a committee of the whole House to inquire into the causes of the failure at Dunkirk, and the evacuation of Toulon, to which Mr. Pitt objected, on account of the great inconveniences of inquiry, which he affirmed to be of such magnitude that they ought never to be hazarded, except when the failures were of a nature to attach incapacity to the character of ministers, or to occasion distrust of the general system which they had adopted.

The situation of General La Fayette and his companions exciting the compassion of many respectable persons, General Fitzpatrick moved in the House of Commons, on the 17th of March, for an address to the throne, beseeching his Majesty to intercede with the court of Berlin in their favour. It appeared that the King of Prussia, being applied to for the release of La Fayette, had answered, that he was not his prisoner alone, but that of the Confederate Powers jointly, and that he could be set at liberty only by the consent of all. Mr. Pitt denied that M. La Fayette's conduct had ever been friendly to the

genuine cause of liberty ; he affirmed, that the interference required would be setting up ourselves as guardians of the consciences of foreign states ; and the motion was negatived by a large majority.

On the 28th of April, Mr. Dundas delivered a message from the King, announcing a treaty of subsidy with the King of Prussia, and a convention with the States General. Mr. Pitt stated, that his Prussian Majesty had agreed to furnish 62,400 troops, for which his Britannic Majesty had agreed to pay him 50,000*l.* per month ; 100,000*l.* per month for forage, 400,000*l.* to put the army in motion, and 100,000*l.* on their return ; of the aggregate of which sums the States General were to pay 400,000*l.* as their proportion. Over the troops subsidized at this expense, the direction and command were still vested in the King of Prussia. The motion of Mr. Pitt for the sum of 2,500,000*l.* to be raised by way of loan on exchequer bills, in addition to the supplies of the current year, for the purpose of making good this engagement, after being warmly opposed in every stage, ultimately passed, by a great majority, as usual.

In consequence of the provision which had been made in the course of the session for embodying a numerous corps of French emigrants, Mr. Sheridan moved for leave to bring in a bill for a new military test, containing merely a declaration of allegiance, such as might admit the whole body of English Dissenters, Catholic and Protestant, to serve their country in a military capacity ; to which he said that he presumed the House would allow them to be at least as competent as an army of French Papists. Mr. Sheridan objected to all the tests and disqualifying laws ; but, confining himself on the present occasion to what he thought might probably be granted, he

extended his motion only to military and naval tests, leaving all civil employments to remain as they were ; the previous question, however, was carried without a division.

Parliament was prorogued on the 11th of July, by a speech from the throne, in which the King urged the two Houses to persevere with increased vigour and exertion, in the present arduous contest, against a power irreconcilably hostile in its principles and spirit to all regular and established governments.

Various alterations in the administration took place about this time. Earl Fitzwilliam was declared president of the council, in the room of Earl Camden ; Earl Spencer was appointed Lord Privy Seal ; the Duke of Portland was made third Secretary of State ; and Mr. Windham Secretary at War. Before the close of the year, Lord Fitzwilliam was promoted to the Vice-Royalty of Ireland, in the room of Lord Westmorland ; and the Earl of Mansfield, late Lord Stormont, and nephew to the celebrated Chief-Justice Mansfield, lately deceased, succeeded to the presidency of the council. Lord Spencer was placed at the head of the Admiralty ; and Lord Chatham, brother to the premier, who had for some years occupied that important department, was made Lord Privy Seal. Ten new Peers were also created, and the Duke of Portland's services were still farther rewarded with a blue ribbon, and the office of Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

The system of terror in France had given to the rulers of that land an absolute dominion over the persons of its inhabitants, and over every thing which it contained. Resolved to extend their sway over the neighbouring countries, to enlarge their own boundaries, and to obtain, by plunder, the means of sup-

porting those gigantic efforts which they were thus enabled to make, they had armed, at the close of the year 1793, nearly 1,000,000 of men, 300,000 of whom were employed on the northern frontier of the republic. To these the allies had not more than 140,000 men to oppose. Besides the superiority of numbers, the French army had the advantage of being subject to the orders of one chief, as it were, while the allies, composed of different nations, were commanded by various leaders, who were very far from acting with that cordial spirit of co-operation which was so essentially necessary, not merely to ensure success, but to prevent defeat. The rivalry between Austria and Prussia, and the jealousy which each had conceived of the other, were so visible, that as early as the 6th of January, the Duke of Brunswick addressed a remarkable letter to the King of Prussia, in which he announced the resignation of his command, stating, as his motive, the unhappy experience that want of connexion, distrust, egotism, and a spirit of cabal, had disconcerted the measures adopted during the two last campaigns. In a subsequent part of the letter, he says, "When, instead of the prevalence of an unanimous sentiment and the same principle, each army acts separate and alone, of its own accord, without any fixed plan, without unanimity, and without principles, the consequences are such as we have seen at Dunkirk, at Maubeuge, and Landau. Heaven preserve your Majesty from great misfortunes!" The resignation of the duke was soon followed by a complaint from the Prussian monarch of the great expense of the war, and a proposal that the states of the empire should provide for the subsistence of his troops; a request to which that body did not accede. When the emperor desired

that the diet would order the people in the frontier circles to rise in a mass, the court of Berlin strongly opposed the measure as fruitless and dangerous; the general levy did not take place; and the contingents of the German princes were imperfectly and tardily furnished.

It has been conjectured that the King of Prussia, from the disappointment of various kinds which he had experienced, had already determined to withdraw himself from the confederacy. In the month of February, certain commissioners from the French republic arrived at Frankfort, under the pretext of negotiating for an exchange of prisoners; but the marked distinction with which they were treated, indicated somewhat of different import, and of higher moment. Field-Marshal Mullendorf succeeded the Duke of Brunswick in the command of the Prussian army; and an intimation to the Prince of Cobourg, that he had received orders from his court to march towards Cologne, was followed, on the 13th of March, by a proclamation addressed to the German empire, announcing his Prussian Majesty's actual secession from the grand confederacy. This *ruse d'etat* appears to have fully answered its intended purpose; as it was almost immediately followed by the treaty of subsidy already mentioned, conformably to which, the sum of nearly 2,000,000*l.* sterling was to be paid to the court of Berlin, for the service of an army of 62,000 men, to be commanded by an officer of his Prussian Majesty's own appointment.

In March, a general council of war was convened at Ath, when the projected arrangements of the campaign, on the part of the court of Vienna, were brought forward by General Haddick. A main article of this plan was, that General Clairfait, an offi-

cer of great ability and experience, should be appointed to the command of the auxiliary forces, and that the Duke of York should act under his orders, the Prince of Cobourg continuing at the head of the grand imperial army. This his royal highness refused with disdain; and the dispute was only settled by the determination, that the Emperor himself should take the field in person, and that in him should be vested the supreme command. On the 9th of April, his imperial Majesty arrived at Brussels, where he was solemnly inaugurated Duke of Brabant, and thence proceeded to Valenciennes, where his presence diffused great joy; the whole army was reviewed by him on the heights above Cateau on the 16th, and on the following day they marched in eight columns to invest Landreci. The French assembled in force at the camp of Cæsar, near Cambray, from which they were driven by the confederates on the 23d, and the investment of Landreci immediately took place. The next day the French made a general assault upon the different posts of the allies in this quarter, and were in most instances repulsed; but the post of Moucron, where Clairfait commanded, was attacked with a superior force by Pichegru in person, and carried, after a brave resistance. Cœxtray and Menin thus fell into the hands of the republicans. In return, the fortress of Landreci, which had repelled the utmost efforts of Prince Eugene in 1712, fell, after a short siege, into the hands of the Prince of Cobourg.

In the month of June, the French, under General Jourdan, who commanded on the side of the Moselle, passed the Sambre, for the third time in the space of fourteen days, and, after being twice repulsed, laid siege to the town of Charleroi. The Prince of Co-

bourg determined to make a grand effort for its relief. On the 21st he reached Ath, and on the 24th effected a junction with the hereditary Prince of Orange and General Beaulieu, who commanded in that quarter. The main body of the French army under General Jourdan was strongly posted, at this time, in the vicinity of Fleurus, to cover the siege of Charleroi. On the morning of the 26th, the Prince of Cobourg hazarded a general attack on this force. The battle continued with unabated fury till near the close of the day, by which time the allied army was defeated in every part, and forced, with immense loss, to retreat to Halle, thirty miles from the scene of action. This was a great and decisive victory. Charleroi, to save which this bloody action was fought, had surrendered on the evening of the 25th, and Brussels fell, without further resistance, into the hands of the enemy. General Clairfait was equally unfortunate on the opposite side. Ypres, the key of Western Flanders, was besieged by 50,000 men, commanded by General Moreau. After a series of engagements, in which the French were almost uniformly victorious, the Austrians were compelled to fall back upon Ghent, and Ypres surrendered on the 17th of June. The Emperor, with his favourite, General Mack, in utter despair of success, left the army, after having in vain issued proclamation after proclamation, calling upon the inhabitants of the Low Countries to rise in a mass, in order to repel the invaders.

The Duke of York, who enjoyed the honour of a separate command at Tournay, was attacked, on the 10th of May, by a French force, consisting of 30,000 men, which he drove back with great loss. The Emperor immediately determined to march to his

assistance, and a grand attack was concerted, in which the army of General Clairfait was ordered to co-operate, but the movements of the different columns not being attended with equal success, the duke, after a succession of severe conflicts, was obliged to fly, and narrowly escaped being made prisoner. In company with only an Austrian general and two other gentlemen, he entered a village, supposing it to be in the hands of the allies, but on turning a corner in full gallop, they found a column of the enemy facing them, which, supposing the duke to be at the head of a body of troops, at first fled, after firing a volley, which killed the Austrian general at his side; recovering, however, from their error, they pursued the duke and his two companions so closely, that they arrived with great difficulty at Tournay, a position which became at length wholly untenable, and was therefore evacuated, the duke retreating in the direction of Antwerp. No sooner had the fate of the Netherlands been thus decided, than Lord Moira arrived from England with a reinforcement of 10,000 men at Ostend, the gallant remains of that army which had been destined to re-establish royalty in Britany. His lordship found his situation very critical, the French being in possession of the country on all sides of him, and it was deemed necessary immediately to evacuate the town, and endeavour to force his way, without tents or baggage, through the enemy, to join the army of the allies, which, by great and skilful exertion, he accomplished on the 8th of July: the shipping in the harbour, amounting to 150 sail, with the ammunition, stores, &c. on board, took their departure for Flushing. Thus Ostend, and, nearly at the same time, Tournay and Ghent, fell into the hands of the French. In the



respective engagements which had taken place between Pichegru and the Prince of Cobourg, since the battle of Fleurus, the former had greatly the advantage: Mons, Oudenarde, Brussels, and Nieuport, places widely distant, and soon after, Mechlin, surrendered to the republican arms, and Antwerp itself was no longer considered as a safe retreat. The Stadtholder consequently solicited the States General to make an extraordinary levy throughout the provinces, but without effect; a revolution in the government was apprehended; and the utmost alarm was every where felt.

General Kleber took possession of Louvain, about the middle of July, after defeating General Clairfait, who had possession of the famous camp of the Montagne-de-Fer. The last hope of the allies, that of forming a line of defence from Antwerp to Namur, was now relinquished, Namur being, on the night of the 16th, abandoned by General Beaulieu; and, on the 24th, the French took quiet possession of Antwerp, the allies having previously set fire to the immense magazines there deposited. Sluys made a brave resistance, but surrendered after a siege of six weeks, the garrison marching out with the honours of war. The strong towns still occupied by the allies, Landreci, Quesnoy, Condé, and Valenciennes, being now completely insulated, successively reverted, almost without resistance, to the French.

At the beginning of August, the army under the Duke of York was stationed at Breda, whence, for greater security, it retreated towards Bois-le-Duc. The French forces, re-collected under Pichegru, advancing rapidly upon them, to the number of 80,000 men, about the middle of September, the Duke crossed the Maese, and took a fresh position near

Grave, and at the beginning of October, he encamped under the walls of Nimeguen. The French, crossing the Maese, made an attack on the British posts in front of that town, and having obliged them to change their position, invested the place. Towards the end of the month, his royal highness passed the Waal, leaving General Walmoden with a corps to cover the town of Nimeguen, which was evacuated in great confusion, and with much loss, on the 7th of November. Bois-le-Duc, Breda, and Grave, were also successively reduced. Whilst Pichegru was in Dutch Flanders, the Austrian general, La Tour, was totally defeated by General Jourdan near Liege, which city, and those of Aix-la-Chapelle and Juliers, were occupied by the French. The Prince of Cobourg was at this period suddenly dismissed from his high command; and his successor, General Clairfait, was compelled, early in October, to repass the Rhine at Cologne. The French pursued the imperial troops to the very margin of the river; and as the rear of the Austrian army embarked, the question was loudly and insultingly asked, if that was the road to Paris. About the end of September the siege of Maestricht was formally commenced, and lasted forty days, during which interval the attack and defence were conducted with heroic bravery. The atmosphere seemed filled with balls, bombs, and shells, and scarcely was a place of safety left in the whole circuit of the city. Two thousand buildings, public and private, were said to be destroyed, and a general storm was intended on the 4th of November, when the governor, moved by the situation of the inhabitants, and the entreaties of the magistrates, consented to articles of capitulation with General Kleber, who entered the place on the same day.

The Prussians did not act with much vigour in this campaign, nor were they wholly inactive. Being obliged to make some show of co-operation with the Austrians, they surprised the French in their intrenchments at **Keyzerslautern**, and defeated them with considerable loss. In July they were attacked by **General Desaix**, who carried the important posts occupied by **Prince Hohenloe** on the **Platoberg**, a high mountain in the territory of **Deux-Ponts**; and soon afterwards, the whole chain of posts from **Neustadt** to the **Rhine** being assailed with success, both Austrians and Prussians were obliged to retreat with precipitation. The imperial army re-crossed the **Rhine**, and the Prussians retired towards **Guntersbloom** and **Mentz**. The recent acquisition of **Keyzerslautern** was abandoned to the republicans, who again occupied the cities of **Worms**, **Spire**, and **Treves**. In **Spain** and **Italy** also the armies of the republic were successful. In **November, 1793**, they penetrated into the province of **Catalonia**, and in the beginning of **February** following, a battle was fought near **St. Jean de Luz**, in which the French were conquerors. In **May** another victory was gained near **Ceret**; and soon afterwards a third, of more importance than the former two, over the principal Spanish army, posted in the vicinity of **Collioure**. On the western side the towns of **Fontarabia** and **St. Sebastian** fell into the hands of the French. In **Italy**, the **Piedmontese** had, at the command of the **Sardinian** monarch, risen in a mass; but, being destitute of the enthusiasm of liberty, they constituted a body without a soul. The French forced the famous pass of **Mount Cenis**, took possession of the city and territory of **Oneglia**, and made themselves masters of a great part of the open country of that district.

In the Mediterranean, the progress of the English arms, subsequently to the evacuation of Toulon, was very flattering. Early in February, 1794, Lord Hood proceeded for Corsica, which was in a state of revolt against the Convention, the insurgents having been excited to this resistance by the English influence, under the conduct of their ancient and popular chief, Paschal Paoli, who had been some years since restored to his country with honour by the Constituent Assembly. Mortella, Tornelli, and St. Fiorenza, being successively surrendered or evacuated, the Corsicans who adhered to the French interest retreated to Bastia, which resisted the united efforts of the Anglo-Corsicans and English till the 24th of May, when it capitulated on honourable terms; and the whole island, excepting Calvi, which held out till August, submitted to the English. Letters of convocation were immediately issued for the Assembly of the General Consulta, to be held at Corte, the ancient capital of Corsica, on Sunday the 8th of June; General Paoli was elected President. The representatives of the Corsican nation immediately voted the union of Corsica with the British crown; a constitutional act was framed accordingly; and Sir Gilbert Elliot, representative of his Britannic Majesty, formally accepted this act on his part, and immediately assumed the title of Viceroy.

At home, as well as abroad, the navy of England was destined to be uniformly triumphant. The Channel fleet, which, during the last summer, had achieved nothing worthy the reputation of its veteran commander, put to sea in the spring, in search of an enemy which had hitherto eluded pursuit. Lord Howe was particularly solicitous to vindicate the honour of his country, as well as to rescue his own

character from unmerited reproach ; and the powerful armament now under his command, left no doubt relative to the result of a contest. On reaching the Lizard, a signal was made for the East Indiamen to proceed on their voyage, under convoy of six sail of the line and a frigate, which were not to separate from them until their arrival off Cape Finisterre. Having received information on the 19th of May, that the Brest fleet was at sea, Lord Howe deemed it proper to effect a junction with the squadron lately detached under Rear-Admiral Montague as soon as possible ; but on hearing, two days after, that the enemy had been seen a few leagues further to the westward, he immediately altered his course, and steered towards them.

Great care had hitherto been taken to avoid any naval contest with the English ; but on the present occasion orders were transmitted to Vice-Admiral Villaret-Joyeuse, to protect the supplies from America at the risk of a battle. Jean Bon St. André, who had been employed at Brest to infuse a spirit of democracy into the seamen, acted on this occasion as a national commissioner, having embarked on board the flag ship, carrying 120 guns, and designated *La Montagne*, after the ruling party in the convention. On the 28th of May, at eight o'clock in the morning, in north latitude  $47^{\circ} 33'$ , W. Long.  $14^{\circ} 10'$ ; the rival fleets descried each other exactly at the same time ; the wind blew strong from the south-west, accompanied by a very rough sea, and the French possessed the weather-gage. After the advanced frigates had given intimation of this event, Earl Howe continued his course, while the French admiral endeavoured as much as possible to assume a regular order of battle upon the starboard tack, a

circumstance which greatly facilitated the approach of the English. As the conduct of the enemy, who had now hauled their wind, indicated an intention to avoid a close fight, the British commander displayed the signal for a general chase, and, to prevent their escape, he soon after detached Rear-Admiral Pasley, with a flying squadron, to make an impression on their rear: that officer accordingly, near the close of the day, attacked the *Révolutionnaire*, a three-decked ship of 110 guns, which happened to be the sternmost in the line, but without any decisive success on either side. The rival fleets, consisting of twenty-six sail of the line on the part of the French, and twenty-five on that of the British, remained within sight of each other during the whole night, on the starboard tack, and in a parallel direction, with the French still to windward; but next morning, the 29th, Admiral Villaret-Joyeuse, flushed with the hopes of a victory, wore from van to rear, and instead of flinching from the action, edged down in a line a-head to engage the van of the British fleet.

Taking advantage of so favourable an opportunity, Lord Howe renewed the signal for passing the enemy's line, and succeeded with some difficulty in obtaining the weather-gage, while the enemy were repulsed by the *Barfleur* and two other three-deckers, in an attempt to cut off the *Queen* and *Royal George*. At length Villaret tacked again by signal, and after a distant cannonade, stood away in order of battle on the larboard tack, followed by the whole of the British fleet. The second day's action proved equally indecisive as the former, and a thick fog that intervened during this night and the greater part of the succeeding day, prevented the renewal of the engagement. In the mean time, Rear-Admiral Neilly joined

the French commander-in-chief with a reinforcement of three sail of the line and two frigates; this accession of strength enabled him to detach his crippled ships; and the dawn of the succeeding day exhibited the two fleets drawn up in order of battle, and prepared to renew the contest. The British admiral, perceiving that there was time sufficient for the various ships' companies to take refreshment, made a signal for breakfast, which, by procrastinating the action, induced the enemy to believe that their antagonists wished to decline the engagement; but they were greatly disappointed, for in about half an hour, Lord Howe gave orders for steering the Royal Charlotte alongside the French admiral, which was effected at nine o'clock in the morning; and while some of the English commanders penetrated the line of battle and engaged to leeward, others occupied such stations as allowed them to combat with their antagonists to windward. So close and severe was the contest, that the fate of this day depended but little either on the exertion of nautical knowledge, or the exhibition of that scientific skill which subjects the management of artillery to the rules of tactics: all was hard fighting. Such was the tremendous fire, and so decisive the advantage, on the part of the British, that in about fifty minutes after the action had commenced in the centre, Admiral Villaret-Joyeuse determined to relinquish the contest; for he now perceived several of his ships dismasted, and one of seventy-four guns about to sink; he at the same time found that six were captured: a great slaughter had also taken place on board his own vessel, in which his captain and a multitude of the crew were killed, while the national commissioner, with most of his officers, was wounded; he accordingly crowded off with all the

canvas he could spread, and was immediately followed by most of the ships in his van that were not completely crippled; two or three of these, although dismantled, also got away soon after, under a temporary sail hoisted on the occasion; for the enemy had, as usual, chiefly aimed at the rigging, and the victors were by this time disabled from pursuing the vanquished: the *Queen Charlotte*, in particular, was at this period nearly unmanageable, having lost her foretopmast in action; this was soon after followed by the maintopmast, which fell over the side; while the *Brunswick*, which had lost her mizenmast, and the *Queen*, also disabled, drifted to leeward, and were exposed to considerable danger from the retreating fleet. Two eighty, and five seventy-four gun ships, however, still remained in possession of the victors, but one of the latter, *Le Vengeur*, went down soon after she was taken possession of, and though many of the French were saved on this occasion by the humanity of their adversaries, above 300 went to the bottom. The slaughter on board the French fleet was very great, that in the captured ships alone amounting to 1270. The British total loss was 904.

Admiral Montague, who had repaired to England, whence he was immediately dispatched to join Earl Howe, sailed for Brest, partly with a view to fall in with the commander-in-chief, and partly on purpose to pick up any crippled ships, which, in case of an action, might take shelter in that port; he accordingly encountered some of the retreating squadron, and chased them into the outer road. On the succeeding day he descried the main body under Villaret-Joyeuse; but, notwithstanding the late fatal conflict, that commander formed an admirable line of battle, and gave chase; while the fleet from America, con-



sisting of 160 sail of merchantmen, supposed to be worth several millions sterling, but invaluable on account of the distressed state of France, arrived in safety on the 12th of June.

The British commander-in-chief now deemed it proper to conduct the six ships captured from the enemy into port, being unable to keep the sea, on account of the disabled state of his own squadron; he accordingly steered for England, arrived safe off Dunnose, in the Isle of Wight, on the 13th of June, and in the course of the same day returned thanks for the highly distinguished examples of resolution, spirit, and perseverance, which had been testified by every description of officers, seamen, and military corps, in the ships of the fleet, during the several actions with the enemy on the 28th and 29th of May, and the 1st of June. The British fleet, after it had been refitted, again put to sea; but the enemy was so completely humbled, that the Brest fleet never ventured out until Lord Howe had returned to port.

The victory of the 1st of June conferred great glory on the admiral, and was received at home with uncommon rejoicing. Large sums of money were subscribed for the benefit of the widows and children of those killed in action. Rear-Admirals Bowyer and Pasley were created baronets, and received a pension of 1000*l.* each *per annum*. Admirals Graves and Sir Alexander Hood had the honours of the peerage conferred upon them. Earl Howe was presented with a diamond-hilted sword of great value, by the King in person, on board the Queen Charlotte at Spithead; and also with a golden chain, to which was suspended a medal, with Victory crowning Britannia on the obverse, and on the reverse a wreath of oak and laurel, encircling his lordship's name, and the date of the

action. In December, 1796, his Majesty was also pleased to transmit gold chains and medals to the following flag officers and captains, who were reported by Lord Howe to have signalized themselves during the battle with the French fleet:—Vice-Admirals Sir A. Hood, T. Graves; Rear-Admirals A. Gardner, G. Bowyer, T. Pasley, Sir R. Curtis; Captains W. Hope, Elphinstone, Hon. T. Pakenham, J. T. Duckworth, Sir A. Douglas, H. Harvey, W. Donett, H. Nichols, J. W. Payne, and T. Pringle.

The success of the British navy, in the course of this year, was nearly uniform. On the 23d of April, Sir John Borlase Warren captured two French frigates off Guernsey, after two hours fighting. In August he pursued five other French ships of war off Scilly, and driving two of them under the batteries of the Gamelle rocks, would have proceeded to burn them; but, with a generosity worthy of his courage, abstained from the last rigours of war against an unfortunate enemy, whose wounded must have perished had he set their vessels on fire. Several combats of single ships displayed the superiority of our seamen in a most brilliant light, nor did the loss of the *Alexander*, of seventy-four guns, in the month of November, tarnish the reputation of the British arms, though the unusual spectacle of such a prize was resounded through France as an immortal achievement. This vessel, which had parted from the division of Admiral Bligh, was attacked off Brest by three French seventy-fours, which she resisted for two hours, and it was not till her lower masts were on the point of going by the board that she reluctantly struck to this disparity of force.

Towards the end of the year 1793, the British government had prepared a formidable armament to act

against the colonies of France in the West Indies. On the 3rd of November, in that year, this expedition sailed; the land forces, which consisted of about 6000 troops, under the command of Sir Charles Grey; and the naval armament, consisting of four ships of war, nine frigates, a bomb ketch, and a few gun-boats, and several store ships, under Sir John Jervis. Having rendezvoused early in the year in Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, they sailed, on the 3rd of February, to the attack of Martinico, which surrendered, after a resolute resistance of seven weeks. Fort Royal was carried by escalade with extraordinary exertions of valour, particularly on the part of Captain Faulknor of the *Zebra*, who entered the harbour through the fire of all the batteries, and laid his sloop alongside the walls, which he scaled in defiance of repeated volleys of grape shot. As soon as the reduction of Martinico had been effected, the troops were re-embarked, and landed on the island of St. Lucia, which capitulated on the 4th of April; and upon the 11th of the same month, the fleet and army arrived off Guadaloupe, which, after a short but brave defence, surrendered, with its dependencies, on the 20th. After these glorious successes, Sir Charles Grey returned to Martinico, leaving General Dundas, brother to the minister, to command at Guadaloupe, where he unfortunately died of the fever incident to the climate, after a few days illness, early in June. About this time a French squadron appeared off the island, from which a body of troops landing under the command of a most daring and skilful leader, Victor Hugues, attacked Fort Fleur d'Épée, which they carried by storm; and the English retreated with considerable loss to Fort Louis; this was also soon evacuated, and the troops,

shattered and disheartened, took refuge in Basseterre. Sir Charles Grey, on the first intelligence of this attempt, sailed from St. Kitt's with all the force he could collect, and, landing on the island of Guadaloupe on the 19th of June, made an attempt on the post of Point-à-Petre on the 2nd of July; after great efforts of valour, however, he was repulsed, with the loss of 600 men. Upon this the forces were re-embarked; and Basseterre, after a long and vigorous resistance, with the whole island and its dependencies, reverted to its former possessors. Not long after the loss of the island, the brave Captain Faulknor, who had so eminently contributed to the reduction of Martinico, lost his life in an engagement with a frigate near Marie-Galante. More than 70 men are said to have been killed in the French vessel, and above 100 wounded; while only 29 suffered in the victorious ship.

In the sanguinary island of St. Domingo, the English had so far profited as to acquire some territorial possessions. That island, in a remarkable degree, had suffered the mischievous effects of the French revolution. When the people in the mother country asserted their right to freedom, the claims of the colonial subjects of France were also recognised; and a society, called *Les Amis des Noirs*, (Friends of the Negroes,) warmly supported the pretensions of the slaves to emancipation, and of the mulattoes to all the privileges enjoyed by the white inhabitants. The declaration of rights promulgated by the National Assembly increased the ferment which the first intelligence of the revolution had produced in the islands; and violent disturbances and contests were apprehended. Deputies from the different districts of the French part of St. Domingo met by the King's

order, to prevent tumults and reform abuses, but their endeavours were opposed by the partisans of the old régime, and the governor dissolved the assembly. Many of the representatives sailed to France to justify their conduct; and, during their absence, Ogé, an enterprising mulatto, found means to excite an insurrection; but it was quickly suppressed, and his life was sacrificed to public justice. The claims of his brethren, however, were confirmed by a decree of the ruling assembly of the parent state, which admitted them to all the privileges of French citizens, on the 15th of May, 1791. While a new colonial assembly deliberated on the conduct which prudence required at this crisis, the slaves in the neighbourhood of Cape François attacked the whites, murdered a great number of them, and destroyed the plantations. The insurrection soon spread to other districts; and, though many hundreds of the negroes and their confederates were slain in battle, or perished by famine, they seemed to multiply like the heads of the hydra. Commissioners were sent from France to heal the disorders of the colony; but they produced, by their misconduct, a civil war among the whites, and invited to their aid a body of rebel negroes, who perpetrated a horrible series of massacres at Cape François, and in June, 1793, burnt the greater part of the town.

The convulsions of the colony induced many of the planters to solicit succour from the British government; and Major-General Williamson was ordered to detach an armament from Jamaica, to take possession of those settlements which the people might be disposed to surrender. Lieutenant-Colonel White-locke sailed in consequence to Jeremie, and received the submission of the inhabitants: the town and har-

bour of St. Nicolas were also given up to the English; and to these possessions Leogane and other towns and districts were soon added. An expedition was undertaken for the reduction of Cape Tiburon; and a bribe was offered to General Lavaux for the surrender of Port de Paix; the enterprise succeeded, and the town was taken on the 2nd of February, 1794. The fort of Acul was stormed by the English; but, at Bombard, they were repelled with loss. They defended Cape Tiburon against an army of blacks and mulattoes, who were routed with considerable slaughter. The arrival of a reinforcement from Great Britain, under Brigadier-General Whyte, elevated the hopes of the English, and preparations were made for the conquest of Port-au-Prince. Fort Bizotton was taken at the point of the bayonet, and the town was soon after evacuated. The unhealthiness of the climate now occasioned a great mortality among the troops, and checked the extension of their conquests: they lost Leogane, were severely harassed in the town of St. Marc, and at Fort Bizotton, and were deprived of Tiburon by the mulatto general, Rigaud.

## CHAPTER XX.

THE Mountain party had no sooner obtained the ascendancy in France, than a new faction sprang up, denominated the Cordeliers, at the head of which were Hebert, Ronsin, Anarcharsis Clootz, and others, who, to conciliate the populace, adopted the wildest theories, decried all religion, preached equality in the absurdest extent, and recommended publicly an agrarian law. In the beginning of

March, the table of the Rights of Man, in the hall of the Cordeliers, was covered with black crape; and Hebert, from the tribune of the society, affirmed, that tyranny existed in the republic. This was sufficient to arouse the jealousy of Robespierre. Virtue and ferocity were declared in the Convention, by the wretch Couthon, to be the requisite order of the day. On the 25th of March, Hebert, and nineteen others, were, on a charge of conspiracy against the constitution, brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal, and, of course, condemned to the guillotine. These executions were followed by those of Fabre d'Eglantine, and other popular deputies of the Convention, on pretence of their having engaged in counter-revolutionary projects. The arrest of Danton, who had voted for the death of the deputies, without imagining that he was so soon to follow them to the scaffold, took place on the 31st of March. It deserves notice, that St. Just, in the report presented on this occasion, makes the profession of Atheism a principal charge against Fabre d'Eglantine. The execution of Danton and his fellow-sufferers, who fell under the fatal axe of the guillotine on the 2d of April, was followed by that of General Arthur Dillon, who had formerly commanded that division of the French army, which, in the campaign of 1792, had so gallantly repulsed the Prussians. As the massacres which daily took place are too numerous for recital, only one more victim shall be noticed. The Princess Elizabeth, sister to the late King, a person of the most exemplary character, was charged with having conspired to restore royalty, with persons, many of whom she had never even seen: not a witness was produced, nor a single attempt made to substantiate any one fact alleged against her; she

was, nevertheless, condemned to death, with twenty-four of her reputed accomplices; and she died, as she had lived, devout, tranquil, and resigned, considering the sentence which consigned her to the scaffold as a welcome passport to a better life.

About this time, the Convention decreed, that the remains of the celebrated Jean Jacques Rousseau should be deposited in the beautiful church of St. Genevieve, now styled the Pantheon. "That illustrious patriot," said the president, "has left excellent lessons to mankind, to love liberty, morality, and the Divinity. These lessons will for ever confound those false philosophers who profess neither to believe in a Providence nor in a Supreme Being—the only consolation of mankind in their last moments." Religion was now again the order of the day in the National Convention, and a decree was passed by which the French nation recognised the existence of a Supreme Being, and the immortality of the soul, declared the freedom of public worship, and appointed decades and other festivals.

On the 30th of May, Barrere brought forward the infamous decree for allowing no quarter to the English or Hanoverian troops; but the French officers and soldiery unanimously refused to carry this abominable mandate into execution; and the commander-in-chief of the British forces, on this occasion, to his lasting honour, declared, by a public proclamation, his unalterable resolution not to imitate this horrid barbarity.

Scarcely had Robespierre reached the summit of power, when the basis on which it stood seemed to totter under him. On the 10th of June, Bourdon de L'Oise, a member of the Conventional Assembly, demanded that the decree which affirmed the inviola-



bility of the national representatives should be again established, and that no member should be brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal but in consequence of a decree of accusation passed by the assembly itself, instead of an order from the Committee of Safety, where Robespierre, and the vile instruments of his horrible tyranny, Couthon and St. Just, bore absolute sway. This was carried before the tyrant could recover from his surprise. From this time the party formed against him rapidly increased, and even his celebrated colleague, Barrere, took a secret, though efficient part in plotting his overthrow. That Robespierre meditated the speedy destruction of all those whom he now regarded as his enemies was manifest; and it was rumoured that he meant, at the same time, openly to assume the office of Dictator of the Republic. On the 25th of July, he delivered an oration in the Convention, in which he plainly indicated his future project. "What a terrible use," said he, "have our enemies made of a word which at Rome was applied only to a public function." The speech was heard with symptoms of contempt; many things in it were contested, and it was evident that his influence in the Convention was lost. This was the critical moment: the armed force of Paris, under Henriot, was still at his devotion; but his resolution, and even his sagacity, seemed to fail him; his popularity was evidently declining, and the applauses of the galleries attended the speeches of his opponents, who, on their part, perceived that they had already gone too far to recede. In the sitting of July the 27th, Billaud Varennes complained that the armed force of Paris was intrusted to parricidal hands. Henriot, said he, was denounced as the accomplice of Hebert. One man

alone had the audacity to support him. Need I name him?—Robespierre. He then proceeded to recount his acts of blood and oppression; and accused him, without reserve, of harbouring an infamous design of making himself dictator. Loaded with universal imprecations, he was not suffered to speak in his own defence; and Tallien moved that Henriot and all his staff be arrested; that their sittings be permanent until the sword of the law had secured this revolution; and that Robespierre and his creatures be immediately arrested. These motions were passed amidst tumults of applause. Barrere was now called upon to speak in the name of the Committee of Public Safety, and after proposing that the national guard resume its original organization, and that the mayor of Paris be responsible for the safety of the national representation, he joined without reserve in the invectives against the fallen tyrant. Robespierre, lost in amazement and consternation, submitted, without farther resistance, to the decree of the Convention. Henriot, commander of the national guards, excited an insurrection in his favour, which, after a short and fruitless resistance, was suppressed, when the insurgents, in the last agonies of wild despair, attempted to turn their arms against themselves. Robespierre, already wounded in the side by a sabre, discharged a pistol in his mouth, with no greater effect than to shatter and disfigure his countenance; Le Bas shot himself dead upon the spot, and Couthon stabbed himself with a poinard; Henriot, while haranguing the populace from an upper window, was thrown down by their desire, and shockingly wounded by the violence of the fall. At six o'clock in the morning the Convention suspended its sitting. The victory being now

decided, Robespierre and the rest of the criminals outlawed by the Convention were immediately conveyed to the Revolutionary Tribunal, merely for the purpose of identifying their persons, and then re-conveyed to the Palace of Justice, and, on the evening of the same day, July the 28th, to the number of twenty-one, executed in the *Place de Revolution*, amid the loudest and most universal acclamations of joy ever known. Robespierre was executed last; but remained on the scaffold wholly speechless, and petrified with horror.

After the fall of this tyrant, who closed his sanguinary career at the age of thirty-five, a general alteration and melioration took place in the different branches of the provisional government of France: the Jacobin Club was entirely demolished; the remains of the Girondist party were restored to their seats in the Convention; and Dumas, president of the Revolutionary Tribunal, Fouquier Tinville, the public accuser, Carriere, conventional commissioner, the destroyer of La Vendée, and various others of the same description, lost their lives most deservedly on the scaffold. At the same time hundreds were released from the different state prisons, who, but for the death of Robespierre, would probably have fallen miserable victims to his tyranny; and the infamous decree of the Convention, for refusing quarter to the English and Hanoverian soldiery, was formally annulled. The royalists of La Vendée and La Loire had never been completely subdued, and thousands were still sheltered in the natural recesses of that romantic country, under their leaders, Charette and Stofflet. A general amnesty, however, being now published, the greater part of them laid down their arms.

The distractions of the French government did not impair the vigour of its military operations, and the army under Pichegru waited only till the frost should set in, to commence a winter campaign on the frontiers of Holland. Though the conquest of that country was an enterprise in which the power of Louis the Fourteenth at its summit was foiled; success had now become more probable, for since the restoration of the stadtholderate by the arms of Prussia, disaffection to the house of Orange and its supporters had greatly prevailed in the United Provinces, several of which had openly declared for the recognition of the French republic, and the abandonment of the connexion with Great Britain. The Duke of York endeavoured in vain to rouse the Dutch to energetic resistance, great numbers being favourably disposed towards the French, and the rest considering opposition hopeless. Military exertions being, therefore, unlikely to be farther useful to that country, his royal highness returned to England.

The frost set in with unusual rigour about the middle of December; in the course of a week the Maese and the Waal were frozen over; and on the 27th a strong column of French crossed the former of those rivers, while another corps made themselves masters of the Bommel. Pichegru did not make his grand movement till the 10th of January, 1795, when the main body of his forces crossed the Waal at different points, and made a general attack upon the lines of the allies, extending between Nimeguen and Arnheim, under the command of General Walmoden. The allies were defeated in every quarter, and a precipitate retreat was ordered towards Amersfort and Deventer. In this retreat, which differed little from

a flight, the wretched fugitives were exposed to every species of distress. From the want of common necessities in the allied army, a dreadful sickness and mortality prevailed, and the harassed and dispirited troops, exposed to the intense severity of the weather, the drifting snow, and heavy falls of sleet and rain, almost without clothing, frequently without sustenance, without medicines, without tents, littered down in cold and damp churches and other public buildings, expired daily and nightly by hundreds. Utrecht, Rotterdam, and Dort, surrendered to the French without resistance; and the Stadtholder, with his family, made his escape in an open boat from Scheveling on the 19th of January. On the succeeding day, General Pichegru made his public entry into Amsterdam; and, by order of the States General, every other fortress in the republic opened its gates to the French. On the 27th of January, the provisional representatives of the people of Holland assembled, and a decree immediately passed for the total abolition of the Stadtholderate, and for the establishment, under the protection of the republic of France, of a new provisional government for the United Provinces, which were now denominated the Batavian Republic.

During the sanguinary extension of the war in Europe, the King of Great Britain was anxious to enlarge his connexions in Asia, by an alliance with the Emperor of China. The prevailing desire of commercial advantage, concurring with a wish to secure the friendship of a potentate, whose influence extended to territories bordering on those of the English East India Company, induced the King to send an ambassador to treat with the Chinese court. The abilities of Earl Macartney, who had acquired

reputation as Governor of Madras, qualified him for such a negociation; and, when he had added to his suite some able cultivators of science and skilful artists, he sailed under the conduct of Sir Erasmus Gower. He reached the Yellow Sea in safety, passed up the White River to Tong-Choo-Foo, and thence proceeded by land to the metropolis of China. Tchien-Lung, the aged emperor, who had already governed that vast empire with uninterrupted success and reputation more than half a century, was then at the palace of Zhe-hol, beyond the celebrated wall which had been erected as a barrier against the incursions of the Tartars. In a garden belonging to this mansion, in a splendid tent, the ambassador delivered a letter from the British Sovereign, in a box of gold, adorned with jewels, which was graciously received; but a spirit of jealousy disinclined the emperor to a treaty, and after the exchange of mutual presents, it was hinted that the departure of the strangers would be agreeable.

On the 9th of October, 1793, *his excellency and* his suite left Pekin, and proceeded to Tong-Tchew, whence they were conveyed, by a variety of rivers and canals, from the northern to the southern extremity of China, reaching Canton in perfect safety, after a variety of amusing adventures, on the 18th of December, and in January following they embarked at Macao for England. The British settlements in India, at this period, enjoyed a season of tranquil repose, under the government of Sir John Shore, the successor of Earl Cornwallis.

Sweden and Denmark still persevered in their determination of observing a perfect impartiality during the present war; and on the 27th of March, a convention was concluded between them, by which

they agreed to protect the freedom of commerce in the Baltic, on the principles of the armed neutrality of 1780, equipping jointly a fleet of sixteen ships of the line for that service; and by the tenth article the Baltic was declared to be a neutral sea, absolutely and altogether inaccessible to the armed ships of the different and distant belligerent powers.

In the month of April, Mr. Jay, Chief-Justice of the United States of America, arrived in England, as minister plenipotentiary, to adjust the existing differences between that republic and the British government. Soon after the commencement of the war, orders were given for stopping all American vessels carrying corn to France, and detaining their cargoes, paying for them and the freights. This proceeding, which was resented by the Americans as an infraction of their independence, was followed by an order for seizing all American ships carrying provisions and stores to the French colonies, and also for obliging American ships, sailing from the British islands, to give security to land their cargoes in British or neutral ports. This order having occasioned the seizure of 600 American vessels within five months, that government showed its resentment by an embargo of thirty days on the British shipping. In addition to these grievances, the memorial delivered by Mr. Jay to the British court, complained of the severity used to American seamen, and of their being compelled to serve on board English men of war. Although these differences were finally attended with very serious effects, they were for the present compromised, both parties being pacifically disposed, and a treaty of amity and commerce between the two countries was signed in November.

The British Parliament assembled on the 30th of December, and in the speech from the throne, while the disasters of the late campaign were admitted, the necessity of persisting in the war was strongly urged, as additional vigour, and additional efforts, were the only possible means of bringing the war to a successful issue. The Dutch government, indeed, dispirited by the reverses which the allies had experienced, had opened a negotiation with the prevailing party in France; but the King expressed his conviction, that no established government, or independent state, could derive real security from such negotiations; and that they could not be attempted by this country, without sacrificing both her honour and her safety to an enemy, whose chief animosity was avowedly directed against her. In the House of Peers, the Earl of Guildford moved an amendment to the address, and urged the impracticability of attaining what appeared to be the present object of the war—the dictating of a government to France. The Marquis of Lansdowne declared that he could see no difficulty in treating with France at the present period, nor could he admit the objection that there was no power existing in that country to treat with. The amendment was rejected, by a majority of 107 to 12 voices. In the Commons, the address having been moved by Mr. Knatchbull, and seconded by Mr. Canning, Mr. Wilberforce, though an intimate friend of the minister, objected, that the obvious tendency of the address was to pledge the House to a prosecution of the war till there should be a counter-revolution in France. The confederacy against France, he observed, was now dissolved, and her internal disorders were appeased; how then could we conquer a people who, when assailed by



the combined forces of Europe from without, and when distracted with insurrections from within, had resisted with such success? He was aware of the impossibility of forcing a government upon France, when that country was united in opinion and in act, and, though a friend to monarchy, he did not conceive a monarchy to be the fittest form of government for France, in present circumstances, as the current of prejudice set so strongly against it. He did not think this country would be at all debased by a declaration for peace: true magnanimity consisted in acting with propriety under every circumstance, resolutely determined to change the mode of conduct whenever it is required by an alteration in the state of affairs. Mr. Wilberforce concluded by moving an amendment to the address, embracing the principal topics contained in his speech. Several gentlemen having spoken in support of the amendment, Mr. Pitt rose under visible emotion, and expressed his astonishment at the language of those members who, after voting for the war, had now become the advocates of peace. Neither the speech nor the address, he affirmed, pledged the House never to make peace with the republican government of France, though he had no idea of a secure peace till the return of the monarchy. The recent change which had taken place in France was a change merely in the name, and not in substance, and the present government no more deserved the name of moderate than that under Brissot, which had provoked this country to war. Peace, could it be obtained, would not place us in a situation of confidence; we must, on the contrary, increase our precautions. Even if disposed to peace, the French rulers would be compelled by fear to give their troops new employment. If we dissolved the

continental confederacy, we could not again hope to see it restored, and we should then be exposed alone to the fury of France. In conclusion, Mr. Pitt entered into a variety of details, to show that the French finances were in the very gulf of bankruptcy, and that the expenditure of the government, since the revolution, had amounted to three hundred and twenty millions. After an unusually long debate, the amendment was rejected, by 246 against 75. This subject was frequently resumed during the session, on various motions by Earl Stanhope, Mr. Grey, the Duke of Bedford, and Mr. Wilberforce, all deprecating the idea of interfering in the government of other countries, and recommending the British government not to object to proposals for a general pacification, on account of the present circumstances of France; but these motions were in succession strenuously opposed by ministers, and ultimately lost by large majorities.

The question relating to the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act was warmly debated on the 5th of January, 1795, when Mr. Sheridan moved for its repeal, in which he was unsuccessful; and on the 15th, the Attorney-General brought in a bill to continue the suspension for a limited time. This measure being carried in the Commons by a considerable majority, the bill was transmitted to the Lords, and passed that assembly also, but not without a protest against it, signed by the Dukes of Norfolk and Bedford, and the Earls of Lauderdale and Guildford.

On the 4th of February, Mr. Pitt delivered to the House of Commons a message from his Majesty, intimating that a loan to the amount of 4,600,000*l.* would be wanted to aid the exertions of the Emperor of Germany during the next campaign, on the credit

of his hereditary dominions, which would probably require the guarantee of the British government. On the question that the national faith be pledged for the sum required, considerable discussion arose, in the course of which, Mr. Fox said, that the recent defalcation of the King of Prussia, immediately after pocketing the English gold, ought to operate as a caution against all advances of money to German princes; and he had no confidence in the efficacy of the proposed loan; Sir William Pulteney entertained a high opinion of its probable utility; Lord Grenville had so much reliance on the promised exertions of his imperial majesty, that he would rather consent to make a present of the desired sum, than lose the chance of expected benefit; the Marquis of Lansdown disapproved all connexions with German princes; but Lord Hawkesbury, and other Peers, were more credulous and confident; the proposition was agreed to by large majorities, and the loan was shipped to the continent in sterling gold.

The business of supplies had now become a difficult task to the minister, when the only efficient ally of England could not proceed without pecuniary aid, and the necessity of making extraordinary exertions for carrying on the war was imperative. After previous discussions on the navy and army estimates, Mr. Pitt, on the 23d of February, submitted his annual statement to the consideration of the House. The number of men voted for the service of the year, was, 150,000 landmen, including militia; 85,000 seamen; and 15,000 marines; the expenditure amounted to 27,540,000*l.*; and the loan proposed was 18,000,000*l.*, being the largest sum ever voted by Parliament up to that period. New taxes were imposed on wine, spirits, tea, coffee, insurances, hair-

powder, &c., which, with an abridgment of the privilege of franking, were estimated to produce 1,644,000*l.*, of which 357,000*l.* was to be applied to the progressive redemption of the debt. As a consolation for these additional burdens, the minister mentioned the extraordinary increase of commerce, which, in the preceding year, had exceeded that of the most flourishing period of peace.

Mr. Fox, availing himself of the recent defection of Mr. Wilberforce, and a number of his friends, from the court party, moved, on the 24th of March, that the House of Commons should resolve itself into a committee, to inquire into the state of the nation, which was rejected, by 219 against 68. A motion by Mr. Wilberforce, for the final abolition of the Slave Trade, was also lost, by a majority of 17.

The affairs of Ireland formed one of the most important subjects that engaged the attention of the present Parliament, those violent animosities of the Irish Roman Catholics against the English government having this year taken root, which at length broke out into open rebellion, and have never since ceased to alienate the affections of a great portion of the people. Some malcontents had entered into secret connexions with the French revolutionists, and a plan for separating the island from the British dominions was strongly suspected, when Earl Fitzwilliam, a nobleman distinguished for his mild and conciliatory conduct, was placed at the head of the government, an appointment peculiarly acceptable to the Irish nation. The Parliament of the sister kingdom assembled on the 22nd of January, 1796, and after voting to the new viceroy an address, expressive of the general satisfaction, agreed, without hesitation, to the most ample supplies ever granted

in that kingdom. The Lord-Lieutenant, finding it impracticable to defer deciding on the demands of the Catholics, for the removal of the remaining disabilities under which they still continued to labour, employed, in his transactions with the leading members of that body, the celebrated Mr. Grattan, a statesman in whom the Catholics universally confided. A bill for their further relief was consequently introduced into the Irish Parliament, and the utmost joy was diffused through the country, in the expectation of this enlarged toleration, when intelligence arrived in Dublin that the British ministry avowed themselves adverse to the measure. The Lord-Lieutenant, after holding the government only three months, was displaced, and Lord Camden appointed in his stead. On the 24th of April, Earl Fitzwilliam appeared in the English House of Peers, and challenged ministers to a full investigation of the nature of his instructions, and the cause of his removal; and, a profound silence ensuing on the other side of the House, the Duke of Norfolk gave notice of a motion to address the King, that those parts of the correspondence between Earl Fitzwilliam and the ministry, which related to his lordship's recall from his government in Ireland, should be forthwith laid before their lordships. This motion was debated in a full House on the 8th of May, being supported by the Duke of Leeds, Earl Moira, and Earl Fitzwilliam himself, who positively avowed that he went out expressly authorized to complete the measure of Catholic emancipation, and that no objections had been made to the steps he had adopted for that purpose, until he had proceeded to the dismissal of certain persons in office inimical to that measure, and had taken other gentlemen into his favour and

confidence. Lord Grenville declined entering into a formal discussion of the subject, from reasons of state which he could not with propriety explain. The motion, he observed, called upon ministers to violate the secrets of the cabinet and the sanctity of their oaths; but he asked in what respect the situation of a Lord-Lieutenant differed from that of any other minister of the crown, who might be removed at pleasure: he had witnessed, he said, the removal of many Lord-Lieutenants, without a single complaint to Parliament on the subject, and to adopt a new course would be to change the constitution, and to convert the House of Parliament into a committee of public safety. After a long and vigorous debate, the House divided—contents, 25; non-contents, 100. A similar motion in the House of Commons, moved by Mr. Jekyll, and seconded by Mr. Fox, was lost by a majority of 188 to 49.

The recal of Earl Fitzwilliam cast a deep gloom over Ireland, and the arrival of his successor in the capital, on the 31st of March, was accompanied by so marked an ebullition of popular discontent, that the intervention of the military was found necessary. On the 13th of April, the Irish Parliament assembled, and on the 21st, a motion was made by Mr. Grattan for an inquiry into the state of the nation, including the reasons for the recal of Earl Fitzwilliam; but this motion was negatived by a large majority of the same Parliament, which had almost unanimously supported all the measures of the preceding administration. On the 24th, Mr. Grattan presented his memorable bill for Catholic emancipation; but on the second reading, it was rejected by seventy-one voices. From this period, the political association, styled the Society of United Irishmen,

rapidly extended itself over the whole country. All the Catholics, and a large proportion of the Protestants of the kingdom, joined this community, and the leaders began to entertain dangerous designs, and to form illegal and treasonable connexions with the government of France. Agents were sent to negotiate with the National Convention; acts of sedition, rapine, and murder, were perpetrated by the most desperate; while, on the other hand, the violent supporters of the system of exclusion confederated together for the purposes of security, under the name of Orangemen. Mutual injuries soon engendered a most inveterate hatred between these two descriptions of men, one of which was beyond comparison superior in number, and the other in property, in legal authority, and military force; and these dissensions rapidly increased, till the whole land exhibited a scene of terror, consternation, and blood.

An event of great national importance, though highly unfortunate in its results, as it affected both the illustrious parties, took place on the 8th of April, in the marriage of the heir-apparent, who espoused his royal father's niece, Princess Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, and the Duchess Augusta of England, and Lord Malmsbury was employed to conduct the royal bride from her father's court. On her arrival in England, she was received with every mark of distinction due to her royal birth and illustrious alliance. The ceremony was performed in the chapel royal, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the nuptials were celebrated with great magnificence. It was generally understood that, in forming this connexion, his royal highness yielded to the solicitations of his august father, influenced by the promise of an ample provision for the discharge of

his debts, which had increased to a vast amount, rather than to his own inclinations; and this is the more probable from his known attachment at the time to Mrs. Fitzherbert, with whom it was even stated that the marriage ceremony, though invalid by law, had taken place. Such, indeed, is the effect of the royal marriage act, that affection can have little influence where the illustrious parties seldom see each other till the eve of the ceremony, where foreign manners frequently create disgust on both sides, and where a foreign language tends to diminish that mutual interchange of sentiment which is the delight of an Englishman's fireside, and for the absence of which empty pomp and vain glory are poor substitutes.

A message from his Majesty to the Commons, on the 27th of April, announced the royal marriage, and expressed the King's conviction that a suitable provision would be made for the establishment of the prince and princess. The message proceeded to state, that his royal highness was under pecuniary encumbrances, and recommended to Parliament the gradual extinction of his debts, by applying to that purpose a part of his income, and the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall. After some discussion, the House, on the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, determined, that 125,000*l.*, together with the rents of the Duchy of Cornwall, estimated at 13,000*l.*, should be settled upon the Prince, of which 78,000*l.* should be applied annually to the liquidation of his debts, amounting, at this period, to upwards of 600,000*l.*, and that a law should be passed to prevent the heir-apparent in future from being involved in similar difficulties. These propositions met the concurrence of the House, and a jointure of



50,000*l. per annum* was settled upon the Princess of Wales, in the event of her surviving his royal highness.

The long trial of Mr. Hastings, which had lasted seven years, was now brought to a conclusion. After the Peers had investigated former modes of proceeding, the Lord-Chancellor, (Loughborough,) discussed the Benares charge. He considered Mr. Hastings as having acted against Cheyt Sing, under the influence of personal resentment, and under the unwarrantable idea of possessing an unlimited right of exaction in times of emergency; and therefore concluded that the Commons had made good that article of accusation. Lord Thurlow vindicated the governor-general in elaborate detail, but not always on constitutional principles. The Earl of Caernarvon strongly contended for his delinquency; while the Earl of Mansfield, the Marquis of Lansdown, and the Bishop of Rochester, maintained his innocence, and extolled his services. The decision of the committee, on different parts of this charge, was, however, favourable to Mr. Hastings. In the consideration of the other charges, Lord Thurlow was the chief defender of the governor-general. He maintained that the resumption of the Jaghiers, on the part of the nabob, was a measure of sound policy; that the steps taken by Mr. Hastings to compel that prince to execute a scheme which, though it was originally proposed by himself, he was afterwards unwilling to enforce, were meritorious rather than criminal; and that his consent to the seizure of the treasures involved no criminality, as they were public property. The Lord-Chancellor condemned the concern of Mr. Hastings in those measures, and denied that the begums or their eunuchs had been guilty of

rebellious acts. Lord Thurlow entered very fully into the charge respecting presents, controverting the statements and conclusions of the managers. The chancellor also differed from the prosecutors with regard to the early presents, but agreed with them in the subsequent part of the charge. The Archbishop of York ridiculed this branch of accusation as frivolous, and lamented the ill return made for the splendid services of Mr. Hastings. The article of contracts did not appear to Lord Thurlow in that criminal light in which the managers viewed it; and the Bishop of Rochester, though he thought there was something objectionable in the opium contract, did not consider that point, or any other part of this charge, as criminal; but the chancellor contended, that, in most of the contracts and agencies, Mr. Hastings had been profuse and improvident, and was also guilty of disobedience to the express orders of the directors. After some debates on the mode of proceeding, it was resolved that the question should be separately put on sixteen points. The greatest number of Peers who voted the defendant guilty in any one respect, did not exceed six: the votes of innocence, in some of the charges, were twenty-six; in others, twenty-three; in one, nineteen. The chancellor intimated the decision of the court to Mr. Hastings, on the 23d of April, 1795, who received it in silence, bowed, and retired from the bar.

The propriety of this sentence was chiefly disputed by the advocates of strict justice. The public in general, entertaining less rigid notions, seemed to be pleased with the acquittal of one who had suffered so long an arraignment, yet had conducted the affairs of his government with spirit and success, and who, though he had not always regarded the duties of

morality, the dictates of virtuous policy, or the sentiments of humanity and moderation, had promoted the interests of his employers, secured their authority, and established their dominion. The East India Company paid Mr. Hastings the costs of his trial, amounting to upwards of 70,000*l.*, and likewise conferred upon him a pecuniary donation.

Parliament was prorogued on the 27th of June, by a speech from the throne, which breathed the air of pacification, and declared it impossible to contemplate the internal situation of the enemy with whom we were contending, without indulging a hope that the present circumstances of France might, in their effects, hasten the return of such a state of order, and regular government, as might be capable of maintaining the accustomed relations of peace and amity.

The French navy being extremely reduced by the disasters of the war, the naval transactions of the present summer were of comparatively slight import. In March, an engagement took place in the Mediterranean, between two squadrons, nearly equal in force; the English commanded by Admiral Hotham, and the French by Richery, the latter of which was conveying a large body of troops to Corsica, for the re-capture of that island. The *Ca-Ira* of 80, and the *Censeur* of 74 guns, struck to the English flag: on the other hand, the French captured the *Berwick*, of 74 guns, going out singly to join the fleet; and the *Illustrious*, of the same rate, being much damaged in the fight, was driven on shore, and lost near Avenza. Soon after this, another partial action took place near St. Fiorenzo, and the *Alcide*, a French ship of the line, struck her colours; but, from some fatal accident, blew up before she could be taken possession of by the English. The skilful

retreat of Admiral Cornwallis, with a small squadron of five ships of the line, from a far superior force, is entitled to mention. On the 16th of June, near the ~~Penmarks~~ Penmarks, the Phaeton frigate made a signal for an enemy's fleet, consisting of thirteen line-of-battle ships. At nine the next morning, the French began the attack, which was vigorously repelled by the English, who kept up a running fight the whole day, without suffering the enemy to gain the least advantage. At length, by throwing out signals as if to another British fleet in sight, the assailants were induced to sheer off. On the 23rd of the same month, however, off Port L'Orient, the French squadron actually fell in with another fleet, under Lord Bridport, which captured three of them, the rest of the squadron only escaping into L'Orient by keeping close in shore. On the other hand, the French made, in the month of October, a capture of thirty merchantmen from the Mediterranean and Levant, with a ship of the line, constituting part of the convoy. They also made prize of part of a Jamaica fleet; and, indeed, both in this and the preceding year, the British trade suffered immensely from their attacks, while their own declining commerce presented few objects of reprisal for our cruisers and privateers.

Notwithstanding their disparity of naval force, the French, after recovering the whole of Guadaloupe, attacked, with success, the fort of Tiburon, in St. Domingo, and made themselves masters of St. Eustatius. St. Lucia, after a violent and bloody conflict, was reluctantly evacuated by the Governor-General, Stewart; and Grenada, Dominico, and St. Vincent's, were preserved with great difficulty. Of those whom the sword spared, many were taken

off by the ravages of the yellow fever. In Jamaica, a bloody and cruel war long subsisted with the Maroons, a hostile and dangerous tribe, who, on the surrender of the island by the Spaniards to the English, refused to submit to the latter, and had since occupied the mountainous part of the country. After many conflicts, in which they were nearly exterminated, those who remained consented to be removed to Canada, where a portion of land was allotted to them.

Though the French had been very successful on the continent, they were by no means unwilling to diminish, by negotiation, the number of their enemies. They courted the King of Prussia into forbearance, and persuaded him that his safety and interest required peace. Having annexed two great commercial cities, Dantzic and Thorn, together with some of the most fertile provinces of Poland, to his dominions, and despairing of the subversion of the French republic, that prince seceded from the confederacy, and concluded a treaty, on the 5th of April, by which he relinquished his possessions on the left bank of the Rhine. By another agreement, he secured the neutrality, and provided for the peace, of the north of Germany. The King of Spain was also induced to agree to a pacification with the victorious republic. In the former part of the year, the French met with great success over the troops of the Spanish monarch, and threatened him not only with the loss of considerable provinces, but with the propagation of revolutionary doctrines among his people. To avert these dangers, the King of Spain purchased peace by the resignation of that part of the island of St. Domingo which the Spaniards had possessed ever since the time of Columbus. Even the Elector

of Hanover, though he remained the most active member of the confederacy in his capacity of King of Great Britain, nevertheless ordered a treaty of peace to be signed with the French, as far as related to the electorate; as did also the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel. The grand Duke of Tuscany, brother of the emperor, and first of all the potentates who had joined the coalition, was likewise induced to recognise the French republic; and through the intervention of his minister, Count Carletti, he concluded at Paris a separate treaty of peace with the Convention, and resumed openly his original system of neutrality. The Regent of Sweden, following the pacific policy of the grand duke, sent the Baron de Stael to Paris, to assure the French nation of the friendship entertained for them by the court of Stockholm.

As soon as Robespierre and his party had received the punishment due to their crimes, an entire change took place in the conduct of the civil war in La Vendée. After some preliminary negociations in the beginning of February, Charette and the principal chiefs of his army on behalf of the Vendéans, and General Comartin on the part of the Chouans, publicly signified their intention to deliver up their arms and magazines, and to live for the future in subjection to the existing government. Conferences were opened at a farm house near Nantes, between the insurgent chiefs and the deputies from the Convention; and on the 7th of March a treaty of peace was concluded, signed, and ratified, at Nantes. The hopes, however, that this peace would be permanent, were soon proved to be delusive. The republican government, on the plea of bad faith, refused to advance the sums stipulated by a treaty of the 7th of March; and several of the chiefs having been

arrested for holding a traitorous correspondence with the English government, the country was again in arms early in June, under the command of Charette and Stofflet. The British government, however, appeared unwilling to adopt any decisive plan of operations on the French coast, and determined to let the Royalists act for themselves, with such assistance of arms and money as England could afford. Agreeably to this decision, a small armament was prepared in the month of June: it consisted of all the emigrant nobility then in England, who had enlisted in their service, with more zeal than prudence, a number of French prisoners of war, who were Republicans in heart, and who only wanted an opportunity to return to their native country. The whole formed a body of about 3000 men, who were landed on a peninsula in the Bay of Quiberon, on the southern coast of Britany, on the 27th of June. Here they attacked a fort defended by 3000 Republicans, which they speedily reduced; and were, in a few days, joined by a body of Chouans, who increased their numbers to 12,000. In order to confine the Royalists to the contracted space of the peninsula which they occupied, their opponents erected three forts at the neck of it. These the former attacked on the night of the 15th of July, and carried two of them; but, being excessively galled by a masked battery, on their approach to the third, they were compelled to retreat; and were indebted for their safety to the seasonable fire from the British ships. The failure of this attempt produced dissensions among the Royalists, which were reported, with great exaggerations, no doubt, to the Republican general, Hoche, by those French prisoners who had been enlisted in England, and who now deserted.

Through the treachery of these miscreants, Hoche obtained the watch-word of the Royalists, whose camp he surprised in the night of the 20th of July, and took or slew the greater part of them. The young Count de Sombreuil, however, at the head of a gallant body of emigrants, continued to make such a desperate resistance, that Hoche was induced to enter into a capitulation with them, by which they were to be treated as prisoners of war, and their personal safety insured. All the stores, ammunition, and baggage, fell into the hands of the enemy. Thus ended this abortive attempt, in which some of the best blood of ancient France was shed. Sombreuil, and his gallant associates, were, by a most scandalous breach of faith, tried, condemned, and executed, as traitors: 187 Royalists, including the Bishop of Dol, and several of his clergy, who had accompanied the expedition, were murdered in cold blood on this occasion. The British squadron hovered on the coast for some time, and having failed in the attempt to take the island of Noirmoutier, succeeded in gaining possession of Isle Dieu, which they fortified.

The two parties who had combined to overthrow the tyranny of Robespierre, soon showed that they could not exist together; and on the 2nd of March, a report was presented to the Convention, in which Barrère, Collot D'Herbois, and Billaud Varennes, were accused of having participated in the enormities of Robespierre, and after undergoing the usual form of trial, it was decreed, that they should be transported to Guiana. The proceedings against these deputies, united with the pressure of famine, which at that moment was felt with peculiar severity, occasioned an insurrection in Paris, which broke out



on the 1st of April, and was not suppressed till the following day. The trial of Fouquier Tinville, and of the ex-judges and jurors of the revolutionary tribunal during the reign of terror, followed, and having been convicted of the mal-administration of public justice, and of having perverted the law to purposes of judicial murder, Tinville, and fifteen others, were executed on the morning of the 9th of May. Another insurrection took place in Paris, on the 20th of May, when the rallying exclamation was, "Bread, and the constitution of 1793." This was followed by insurrections in the departments, but they were all at length suppressed.

On the 9th of June, the infant Capet, only son of the late unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth, terminated his sufferings in the prison of the Temple, where he had been confined from the fatal autumn of 1792. On this event, the Committee of Public Safety proposed the exchange of his sister, who remained a prisoner in the Temple, for the deputies Semonville and Maret, who had been delivered up to Austria by Dumouriez, which was, after some delay, acceded to. The Count de Provence, the legitimate heir to the throne of the Bourbons, was now styled Louis the Eighteenth.

The plan of a new constitution was drawn up by a committee appointed for that purpose, and on the 23rd of August declared complete. The legislative power was vested in two councils, the one consisting of 500, and the other of 250 members, to the former of which, styled the Legislative Council, belonged the proposing, and to the latter, the Senate, or Council of Elders, the confirming of laws. The executive power was delegated to a directory of five persons. On this constitution two decrees were engrafted,

which, in their consequences, plunged the metropolis of France into another of those scenes of horror that had so often been exhibited during the revolution: by the first of these decrees, passed on the 5th Fructidor, (August the 22d,) it was enacted, that the elective bodies should, in appointing the deputies to the legislative body, choose two-thirds from among the members of the present convention; and by the second, that in default of such election, the Convention should fill up the vacancies themselves. The forty-eight sections of Paris, while they unanimously accepted the constitutional act, firmly rejected the law for the re-election of the two-thirds, and proceeded to acts of open hostility. On the 4th of October, the sections, having drawn out their forces, marched them to the hall of the Convention, and a sanguinary battle took place in the streets. The command of the troops was confided to Barras by the Convention; and on this occasion Napoleon Buonaparte first distinguished himself as a commander, on that stage on which he afterwards became so prominent an actor; the different avenues of the Thuilleries being planted with cannon, great slaughter was made among the insurgents, who were driven from all their posts, with the loss of about 800 men; and the Convention, now triumphant, declared the majority of votes in the departments in favour of the law of Fructidor. The labours of the Convention were now drawing to a close: on the 30th of September, they solemnly decreed the incorporation of all the countries which the house of Austria, previously to the war, had possessed on the French side of the Rhine, with the republic of France: on the 27th of October, it was decreed, that the punishment of death should be abolished at the peace, and

a general amnesty granted ; and the president then rising, said, " The Convention is dissolved !" The members of the new legislature proceeded to the choice of the directory, and the election fell upon men not distinguished as favourites of the people, but most of whom bore characters free from reproach. At the head of the list stood Reveillere Lepaux, a lawyer by profession, and of the Gironde party : the next was Reubel, a moderate man, also an attorney : Letourneur de la Manche, an officer of engineers, and rather more attached to the Mountain than the Plain, was the third : the fourth was Barras, formerly a viscount, a soldier by profession, and a man of pleasure in habits : Sieyes, the subtle statesman, was at first nominated as the fifth, but he saw too clearly the difficulties of the constitution ; and Carnot, a member of the Committee of Safety under Robespierre, but who had attended almost exclusively to the business of the military department, and of whom it was said, " that he organized victory, and rendered her permanent," filled up the number. Thus constituted, the new government, in all its departments, entered upon the active exercise of its functions, and the palace of the Luxemburg was appointed for the residence of the executive power.

It has been already seen, that the English army, after the abandonment of Nimeguen, took the route of Arnheim and Deventer, under the command of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie. They reached the last of these places at the end of January, closely pursued by a far superior force. In their retreat they suffered incredible hardships, the partial thaws which took place obliging the soldiers to wade through torrents of mud and water. After a very short halt at Deventer, the army moved again towards the Ger-

man frontier; and on the 12th of February, they crossed the Ems at Rheine, much harassed by the advanced parties of the enemy. At Groningen the division commanded by Lord Cathcart was refused admission; but after a long series of disasters, the shattered remains of this fine body of troops, supposed, at their departure from England, to amount to 35,000 men, now reduced to about a fifth part of that number, reached the city of Bremen on the 27th and 28th of March, and soon afterwards embarked on board the transports lying ready to receive them in the Elbe, for England.

The allied powers were not in a situation to take the field till the month of May; and it was not till the 7th of June, that the fortress of Luxemburg was attacked by the French troops. After its surrender, nothing seemed wanting to complete the glory of the French arms, and to secure their recent acquisitions, but the subjection of Mentz, which had now been fruitlessly besieged for several months, the Austrians, commanded by Generals Clairfait and Wurmser, maintaining an uninterrupted intercourse with the garrison, from Cassel, on the opposite bank. It being at length perceived that the city could not be reduced until a perfect investment was formed, a large body of the French troops, under Jourdan, passed the Rhine at Dusseldorf, which surrendered without resistance, the Austrians retiring to a strong position on the Lahn. Another body, commanded by Pichegru, effected the passage of the river at Mannheim, of which city they took immediate possession, on terms very favourable to the inhabitants. The investment of Mentz was now at last accomplished, and a confident hope was entertained of its speedy capitulation; but a division of Pichegru's

army, being ordered to the attack of a post necessary to prevent the junction of the forces of Clairfait and Wurmser, now marching to the relief of Mentz, was overpowered, and compelled to retreat with precipitation to Manheim; and Jourdan, thus deprived of the expected co-operation of Pichegru, found his position no longer tenable. The Austrians also had taken part of his heavy artillery; Jourdan was therefore obliged to raise the siege, and he repassed the Rhine at Dusseldorf, much harassed by Clairfait in his retreat. The Austrians even pursued the enemy across the river, and beat up the quarters of the French, spreading terror over the country as far as Luxemburg. General Wurmser, on the other side, proceeded to the attack of Manheim. He immediately began a bombardment, which in a short time destroyed the principal buildings of that beautiful city, reducing it to a scene of desolation; and the garrison surrendered themselves prisoners of war. The campaign was at length terminated by an armistice of three months.

The French having entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Holland, a proclamation was issued, on the 19th of January, containing peremptory orders to seize whatever Dutch vessels were found in the ports of Great Britain; in consequence of which, five ships of war were secured, lying in Plymouth Sound, nine East Indiamen, and about sixty sail of other vessels. On the 9th of February, a third proclamation was published, authorizing the capture of all Dutch ships and property; and letters of marque and reprisal were also, after an interval of some months, granted; so that war against Holland was virtually declared; and, before the end of the summer, the famous settlement of the Cape of Good

Hope surrendered with little resistance. The conduct of the expedition was intrusted to Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone, and General Sir Alured Clarke. On the 14th of July, a landing was effected at Simons-Town, and possession obtained of that place, which had been previously evacuated, with the supposed intention of being burnt. The troops advancing towards the Cape-Town, carried the strong post of Muysenberg, when General Craig waited for a reinforcement from St. Salvador. After some weeks of inaction, an attempt to surprise the most considerable of the out-posts failed; and, though the English repelled a fierce attack, their efforts did not deter their adversaries from preparing for a general engagement. At this crisis, the appearance of the expected reinforcement checked the eagerness of the enemy; the governor proposed a cessation of hostilities; and terms of capitulation were adjusted on the 16th of September, by which it was agreed, that the troops in garrison should be prisoners of war, and that the property of the Dutch East India Company should be delivered up to the captors of the settlement; but private possessions and civil rights were left inviolate. In the course of the year, also, divers of the Dutch East Indian colonies fell into the hands of the English: amongst the rest, in August, Trincomalé; and, soon afterwards, Columbo, and the other Dutch settlements in the Isle of Ceylon. In October following, Malacca, situated on the peninsula of that name, and Chinsura, in the Bay of Bengal; also, about the same time, Cochín, valuable for its harbour, on the coast of Malabar.

For some time before the Prussian monarch finally withdrew from the contest with France, he had been evidently desirous of directing his whole attention to

Poland, and of securing to himself a large share in the projected partition of the remainder of that unfortunate country, Russia having been more actively engaged in shedding the blood of the patriots, and destroying their liberties. The Empress Catherine, persisting in her plan of being effective sovereign of the country, compelled the unhappy Poles to repeal all these laws, and to annul all those regulations, which were calculated to insure their independence and happiness. It was not possible that a people, who knew the value of freedom, and who possessed the spirit of men, could long endure a state of such intolerable bondage, without making some effort to relieve themselves from these disgraceful shackles; and during these struggles, Kosciusko appeared on the public stage: he was a soldier of fortune, accustomed to revolutions, active, energetic, full of resources, and ardently attached to his native country. Having collected a large body of people, early in 1794, he gained many advantages over the Prussians and Austrians, and restored the constitution which Catherine had suppressed. At this time, 15,000 Russians were in the capital, who endeavoured, on the approach of Kosciusko, to make themselves masters of the arsenal, but they were successfully opposed by the armed citizens, and driven out of the city, after a desperate engagement. In May, the Polish army amounted to nearly 70,000 men, exclusive of a numerous and warlike peasantry, but this force was dispersed in different bodies throughout the wide extent of Poland and Lithuania, and the vast armies of the powers allied for their destruction were advancing upon them with rapid steps. The King of Prussia now entered Poland with a powerful army, laid siege to Cracow, which surrendered on the 15th of June,

and, having collected all the Russians in the neighbourhood of Warsaw, formed the siege of the capital the speedy reduction of which he regarded as a matter of certainty ; Kosciusko, however, strained every nerve to collect an adequate force for the frustration of his design, and, on the 11th of June, established himself in an advantageous position, in front of the city. Here his army received constant reinforcements, and he was enabled to throw up formidable intrenchments, from which he battered the Prussian camp, and, after several weeks, compelled them reluctantly to raise the siege, on the 5th of September. But the triumph of the Poles was of short duration : a powerful army of Russians now entered their country under the command of Suwarrow, the celebrated conqueror of Ismael, bore down all opposition, and, after defeating 6,000 Poles, under Kosciusko, on the 10th of October, and taking their general prisoner, advanced against the capital itself. The city had a garrison of 10,000 men, under the Generals Madalinski and Dombrowski, who resolved to defend it to the last extremity. The assailants, under Suwarrow, amounted to 60,000 ; and the Russian general determined to take it by assault. The conflict was sustained with desperate courage, and unshaken resolution, for eight hours, when the Russians obtained possession of the suburb of Praga, where they committed a dreadful slaughter. The city being now incapable of further resistance, a proposal was made to capitulate. Warsaw was delivered up on the 19th of September ; and, before the close of the year, the whole country was completely subjugated. The Polish monarchy was dissolved ; its territory divided between the three neighbouring powers, Russia, Prussia, and Austria ; and its sovereign degraded



into a miserable stipendiary of the court of St. Petersburg. In this instance, the three potentates, who had first and most loudly reprobated the outrageous conduct of the French revolutionists, concurred in pursuing a similar line of conduct themselves. Without the smallest provocation, or any colourable pretext, they invaded the kingdom of an independent power, dictated laws to him in his capital, destroyed the constitution of his country, murdered his subjects for their loyalty and patriotism, and, finally, hurled him from the throne. An act of greater violence and injustice stains not the annals of guilty ambition.

Early in 1795, Lord Amherst retiring from public life, the Duke of York was appointed commander-in-chief and field-marshal general of the forces of Great Britain; the Duke of Richmond was removed from his post of Master of the Ordnance, in which he was succeeded by Earl, recently created Marquis Cornwallis; and Sir William Howe was nominated, in the place of the latter nobleman, Governor and Lieutenant of the Tower of London.

At this time, a spirit of discontent pervaded the country, and petitions for peace from London, York, Norwich, Hull, Manchester, &c. were presented, but they were not sufficiently general to produce any material impression, and their influence was counteracted by counter-petitions, expressive of a reliance in the wisdom of government, and in their readiness to enter upon negotiations for peace whenever the proper period should arrive. In July, however, some serious riots, which continued for several days, took place in Westminster, arising out of the excesses committed in several crimping houses in that city; and the mob, which evinced a marked

aversion to the prime minister, repaired to his house in Downing-street, where they broke the windows, and were proceeding to further excesses; but Mr. Pitt escaped by the Park gate, into the Horse Guards, and the presence of a body of military soon restored the public tranquillity. In the autumn, great apprehensions were excited, by large assemblages of the populace, convened by the Corresponding Society, which still continued its meetings; and on the 26th of October, not less than 40,000 persons assembled in a field near Copenhagen House, in the vicinity of the metropolis, for the purpose of voting a number of resolutions, expressive of their views of the measures of government, and a petition, praying that the bill recently introduced into the House, for the restriction, or rather the utter prevention, of popular assemblies, for the purpose of political investigation, might be dismissed, with that marked disapprobation it so justly deserved. To the agitations produced by the conflicts of parties, was now to be added another evil still more alarming. A scarcity arising almost to famine prevailed throughout the kingdom. This scarcity was occasioned, in part, at least, by an alarming deficiency in the year's crop, which had suffered extremely by incessant rains. The state of the nation, from these circumstances, appeared so critical, that it was judged expedient to assemble Parliament at an earlier period than usual.

On the 29th of October, the day fixed for the meeting, an unusual concourse of people assembled in the park, and as his Majesty passed to the House, violent exclamations were heard of "Peace! Bread! No Pitt! No War!" The clamour increasing, stones were thrown at the royal carriage, as it proceeded

through the streets of Westminster; and from a house, near the Abbey, a bullet was supposed to be discharged from an air gun, as no noise was heard, though something passed through the glass of the coach with great force and velocity. On entering the House of Peers, his Majesty, in some perturbation, addressing the Lord-Chancellor, said, " My lord, I have been shot at." The rage of the misguided populace was not yet exhausted; for, on his return from the House, the King was again assailed in the Park; and to such a pitch did the mob carry their resentment, that one party of them attacked and nearly demolished the state carriage, as it returned empty from St. James's, while another attempted to stop the private carriage of the King, in which he had seated himself for the purpose of joining his family at the Queen's house, and even to force open the carriage doors. At this critical moment, the arrival of a party of the life-guards dispersed the populace, and the King, with great difficulty, reached the Queen's house. So gross an outrage as this had never been offered to any other monarch of Great Britain, since the days of Charles the First. A reward of 1000*l.* was immediately offered, to be paid on conviction of any person concerned in this daring and criminal assault; but no one who had been guilty of any actual violence was ever discovered. The only person brought to punishment was Kidd Wake, a journeyman printer, who was found to have been among the hissers and disturbers of the King's peace, of which crime he was convicted, and sentenced to five years' solitary confinement in the Penitentiary-house at Gloucester, and to stand in the pillory.

The outrage committed upon the Sovereign, ex-

cited great consternation in the House of Lords, and as soon as the King withdrew, the ministers had a short consultation, as to the proper mode of proceeding on so extraordinary an occasion. It was at length determined to postpone the consideration of the speech from the throne to the following day, and immediately to form the House into a committee of privileges. This being done, Lord Grenville apprized the Peers of the attack which the King had sustained on his way to the House. Some witnesses were next examined, who proved, that, after the royal carriage had passed the gateway at the Horse Guards, there were frequent exclamations of "Down with George! —No King!" and many stones were thrown at the coach by the mob. When all the facts had been established, a conference was proposed with the Commons, and a joint address was presented to the King, in which the two Houses avowed their indignation and abhorrence at the daring outrage which had been offered to his Majesty on his passage to and from Parliament, declared that they could not reflect, without the utmost concern, that there should be found within his dominions, any persons so insensible of the happiness which all his subjects derived from his just and mild government, and of the virtues which so eminently distinguished the royal character, as to be capable of such flagitious acts; and they expressed their earnest wishes, in which they were confident they should be joined by all descriptions of his Majesty's subjects, that he would be pleased to direct the most effectual measures to be taken, without delay, for discovering the authors and abettors of crimes so atrocious. The proclamation which was immediately issued, offering a large reward for the discovery of the authors of the outrage,

also stated, that, previously to the opening of Parliament, a meeting had been holden in the vicinity of the metropolis, at which inflammatory speeches were delivered, and divers means used to sow discontent, and to excite seditious proceedings; and it required all magistrates, and other well affected subjects, to exert themselves in preventing and suppressing all unlawful meetings, and the dissemination of seditious writings.

In the speech from the throne, the King expressed his satisfaction at the improved state of public affairs, arising from the measures which had been adopted for preventing the invasion of Italy and Germany by the French; the crisis brought about by the prevalence of anarchy at Paris, was represented as likely to produce consequences highly important to the interests of Europe. Should that crisis terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and affording a reasonable expectation of security and permanence in any treaty which might be concluded, the appearance of a wish to negotiate for a general peace, on just and suitable terms, would not fail to be met, by the King, with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect. The speech notified that treaties of defensive alliance had been concluded with the two Imperial courts, and that a commercial treaty had been ratified with America. The address having been proposed by Lord Dalkeith, Mr. Fox moved an amendment, asserting the ability of the French government to maintain the accustomed relations of peace and amity with other nations, and praying his Majesty to give directions to his ministers, to offer such terms to the French Republic, as would be consistent with the honour of his Majesty's crown, and with the security

and interests of his people. This amendment was negatived, by a large majority.

The spirit which had dictated the late excesses appeared, to his Majesty's government, to call for an extension of the treason and sedition laws, and two bills were, in consequence, brought into Parliament; the former "for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts," and the latter "for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies." These bills had for their object the restriction of the right hitherto possessed by the people, of assembling for the purposes of petitioning the crown and legislature, and of discussing political subjects: they materially extended the law of high treason, and aggravated the punishment of sedition; and were warmly opposed in each step of their passage through both Houses, as violent and unnecessary encroachments on the privileges granted by the constitution, but were carried by more than the usual majority, such was the impression made by the intemperate proceedings which had taken place. Their duration, however, was limited to three years.

During these stormy discussions, the senate was not unmindful of the critical state of the country, owing to the scarcity of corn. It appeared, from the information laid before a committee of the House appointed to inquire into this subject, that the principal failure in the late harvest had been the crop of wheat, and a bounty of 20s. per quarter was in consequence ordered to be paid on the importation of wheat from the Mediterranean; 15s. per quarter on that from America; and 5s. per quarter on Indian corn. Bills were also introduced, and passed the two Houses of Parliament, for prohibiting the manufacture of starch

from wheat ; for prohibiting the distillation of spirits from grain ; and for facilitating the cultivation of waste lands ; and a considerable number of enclosure bills passed the House in the course of this session of Parliament.

On the 4th of November, Lord Arden moved that 110,000 seamen, including 18,000 marines, should be voted for the service of the year 1796 ; and Mr. Windham, on the same occasion, proposed that 207,000 men should be employed in the land service. These motions being carried, Mr. Pitt brought forward, on the 7th of December, a proposal to negotiate a loan of 18,000,000*l.*, and stated the sum of 27,500,000*l.* to be the estimated expenses of the approaching year.

A message was delivered to the House of Commons by Mr. Pitt, on the 8th of December, announcing the establishment of such a form of government, in France, as appeared capable of maintaining the relations of peace and amity, and expressive of a readiness, on the part of the British government, to meet any proposal for negotiation on the part of the enemy, with a desire to give it the speediest effect in producing a peace. On the following day, Mr. Pitt moved an address, thanking his Majesty for his most gracious communication. This address gave rise to a debate, in which Mr. Sheridan proposed an amendment, disclaiming the idea of considering any change of government in France as affecting the principle of negotiation, and praying that a treaty might immediately be entered upon. This amendment was said to be perfectly consistent with the spirit of the message, which admitted that Great Britain might now safely treat : where then could be the objection of declaring, that she would treat with France ? To

this reasoning ministers observed, that it was highly proper and expedient, that the executive government should be left unfettered, and the amendment was negatived without a division.

The year 1796 was ushered in by the birth of the deeply lamented princess, whose loss, twenty years afterwards, excited a greater share of national sorrow than any similar event in this reign. Her royal highness, the only child of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was born on the 7th of January, and baptized Charlotte, in compliment to her august grandmother, the Queen of England.

Parliament having assembled, after the Christmas recess, Mr. Grey moved, on the 15th of February, an address to the King, praying him to communicate to the executive government of France, his readiness to meet any disposition to negotiate a general peace. This motion was resisted on the same grounds as the amendment to Mr. Pitt's motion, previously moved by Mr. Sheridan, and negatived by a great majority.

On the 18th of April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward a proposition, which was agreed to, for a second loan, to the amount of seven millions and a half, in order to take out of the market a great proportion of the paper, constituting the unfunded debt. Early in May, motions were made in both Houses, for the appointment of committees of finance, to ascertain how far the public expense had increased beyond the supplies annually granted by Parliament; but these motions were negatived, by very large majorities.

On the 10th of May, an address to the King was moved, in the Upper House by the Earl of Guildford, and in the Lower House by Mr. Fox, declaring,



that the duty incumbent on Parliament no longer permitted them to dissemble their deliberate opinion, that the distress, difficulty, and peril, to which this country was then subjected, had arisen from the misconduct of the King's ministers, and was likely to exist and increase as long as the same principles, which had hitherto guided these ministers, should continue to prevail in the councils of Great Britain. Mr. Fox enlarged much on "that most fatal of all the innumerable errors of ministers," their rushing into a ruinous and unnecessary war, instead of mediating between France and the allied powers. Had they, said he, counselled his Majesty to accept the grateful office of mediator, it would have added lustre to the national character, and placed Britain in the exalted situation of arbitress of the world. Mr. Pitt insisted that his Majesty could not have interposed his mediation, without incurring the hazard of involving himself in a war with that power which should have refused his terms. He expatiated on the danger arising to all Europe, from the revolutionary decree of the 19th of November, and the insult offered to this country in particular, in the encouragement given to the seditious and treasonable addresses presented to the Convention, by whom the bearers of them were cherished, applauded, and caressed; and while the negotiations were yet pending, war was actually declared by France; that country, therefore, and not England, was the aggressor. This nation had no alternative; and after a war of more than three years—a war approved and sanctioned by that House, by repeated votes and declarations—a war justifiable on every principle of morality, and essential to the very existence of our constitution, would the House now acknowledge

themselves in a delusion? Would they submit to the humiliating degradation of falsely arraigning themselves, and of passing on their own acts a sentence of condemnation? It was a war of which the necessity and policy were manifest; and if the country should at any time suffer a disastrous reverse of fortune, he would exhort them not to yield to a temporary pressure; but, on the contrary, to redouble their efforts, in order to surmount their difficulties, and finally to obtain safe and honourable conditions of peace. Nor, on the other hand, if success were gained, should the prospect of obtaining more and further advantages be relinquished, by a premature readiness to make peace. These arguments were deemed conclusive, and the motions of both Mr. Fox and Lord Guildford were lost by immense majorities. The public business being now concluded, his Majesty terminated the session of Parliament on the 19th of May, with a speech from the throne, expressive of the highest approbation of the uniform wisdom, temper, and firmness, which had appeared in all their proceedings, since their first meeting in that place; and on the following day the Parliament was dissolved by proclamation.

## CHAPTER XXI.

**THE** campaign of 1796 was distinguished by the most extraordinary and important events. The previous operations on the Rhine having terminated favourably to the Austrians, the French government determined to make a powerful diversion in Italy,

under the command of Buonaparte, in which the Republican arms were eminently successful. In the month of April, he entered the territory of the Genoese republic, and quickly evinced, on different occasions, those extraordinary talents for war, which afterwards elevated him to the summit of power and fame. Soon after the campaign opened, Buonaparte found himself at the head of more than 60,000 men, 45,000 of which were under his immediate command; and Kellerman, who headed the army of the Alps, as it was called, had 25,000. The Austrian army, under General Beaulieu, comprised about 35,000 effective men, including a Neapolitan corps of about 7000: the Piedmontese army, commanded by the Austrian General Colli, amounted to 20,000, and was employed in defending the different approaches to Piedmont; and the Duc d'Aosta was stationed in Savoy, with 15,000 men, to watch Kellerman. In the space of five days Buonaparte, with the aid of Berthier and Massena, gained three victories; Mondovi and other towns were reduced by his active troops; and the King of Sardinia was so discouraged, that, to procure a cessation of hostilities, he delivered up some of his principal fortresses to the victorious army. A peace was soon concluded between him and the French, to whom he ceded the Duchy of Savoy and County of Nice for ever. Advancing to Lodi, on the 10th of May, the French encountered General Beaulieu; but they were opposed by such strenuous efforts, and so tremendous a fire, that victory seemed to promise itself to the Austrian battalions. At length, however, after a most sanguinary conflict, the bridge was forced, and the Republican army bore down all before it. The success of this action, commenced in opposition to all

the rules of tactics, by no means justified the attempt. When the first column had advanced half way across the bridge, a single discharge of the Austrian artillery mowed down 700 men; and the darkness in which the smoke enveloped the French, alone enabled them to gain the opposite extremity. It is the undoubted duty of a commander to expose his troops to the least possible danger, and the necessity of crossing the Adda at Lodi, when it might have been effected at some other point, does not appear sufficiently imperative to rescue Buonaparte from the imputation of having wantonly sacrificed the lives of his men. By this victory he gained possession of the greater part of the Milanese; and, after having quelled an insurrection of the new subjects of France at Pavia, he entered the ecclesiastical states, and took possession of Bologna, Urbino, and Ferrara. Alarmed in the highest degree at the advance of an enemy, now become formidable to all Italy, both the Pope and the King of Naples sued for an armistice, which was granted to his Sicilian Majesty, on the easy condition of withdrawing all assistance from the allied army; but the Pope was obliged not merely to cede to the French the towns already in their possession, but to add to their number the city and fortress of Ancona, on the Adriatic, together with a contribution of 21,000,000 francs by instalments, and a present of 100 pictures, statues, busts, and vases, to be selected by competent judges of the arts, from the galleries at Rome, to adorn the museums of France. Similar terms were also exacted from the Dukes of Parma and Modena. On the 28th of June, a detachment of French troops took possession of Leghorn, though belonging to a neutral power, on pretext of dislodging the English, the whole of

whose property found in that city was confiscated to the use of the republic ; the factory, however, had removed the greater part of their effects to the Isle of Elba. \_ The Austrians being pursued by the French into the Venetian territory, the senate, whose policy it had always been to pay the greatest deference to power, after manifesting a partiality to the cause of the allies, found it necessary to bend before the genius of the Gallic democracy, and the Count de Provence, (Louis the Eighteenth,) who had taken refuge in their territory, was desired to withdraw therefrom.

General Beaulieu, incompetent to withstand the enemy, resigned the command of his army, which was conferred on Field-marshal Wurmser, a warrior who, in his eightieth year, combined all the energy and ardour of youth with the experience of age. Having collected the shattered remains of Beaulieu's army, and strengthened them with large reinforcements, he crossed the Adige towards the end of July, and obliged the French to raise the siege of Mantua. On the 5th of August, the two armies came in conflict, and the battle was continued for several successive days, but victory at length declared in favour of the French general, and Wurmser was obliged to take refuge in Mantua. The emperor immediately assembled another army, at the head of which was placed Alvinzi, a member of the aulic council, who commenced his operations with some success, at the head of 50,000 men, expecting to be able to form a junction with the army of the Tyrol, and raise the blockade of Mantua ; but his progress was intercepted by Buonaparte, who, crossing the Adige on the 14th of November, advanced to the village of Arcole, a position equally strengthened by

nature and art, and, after a most obstinate and bloody conflict, which lasted three days, was at length successful, through the stratagem, before practised, of taking the enemy in the rear. In the mean time, the left wing of the French army had been forced by General Davidowich, who advanced within eight leagues of Mantua; but Buonaparte, taking advantage of his late victory, ordered General Massena to repossess the Adige, and attack the successful division, which was forced to retire behind the Arisio, on the 22d of November, while Alvinzi took refuge on the other side of the Brenta, after losing 6000 men in killed and wounded, eighteen pieces of cannon, and four standards. Thus ended one of the most memorable campaigns recorded in history.

On the Rhine the command of the French armies was conferred on Jourdan and Moreau. Three battles won successively at Renchen, Rastadt, and Etlingen, not only enabled the invaders to gain possession of the passes of the Black Forest, but to invest Mentz, Mannheim, Phillipsburg, and Ehrenbreitstein, at the same time. The engagement at Etlingen, where the Archduke Charles, brother of the emperor, a gallant and popular prince, now at the head of the Austrian army, contended against Moreau in person, was long and obstinate, and when at length the Austrians were forced to retire, it was rather before the enthusiasm than the superior skill of their adversaries. In his victorious career, Moreau forced the Elector of Bavaria, the Duke of Wurtemberg, and the Margrave of Baden, to sue for peace; while Jourdan, seizing on Nuremberg, Ingoldstadt, and Amberg, menaced Austria on his right, as well as Bohemia in his front. The retreat of the imperial forces in Germany was contemporary with the dreadful losses which they were sustaining from Buonaparte in Italy; but their

strength, though overpowered, was not broken. The Archduke Charles, having received considerable supplies, determined to throw himself between the invaders and Ratisbon; but before his arrival, the army of Wartensleben had fought a successful battle, and driven the French from the heights before Amberg. On the 22d of August, the archduke arrived in person, and after defeating the enemy under Bernadotte, drove them back to Newmark. Jourdan, finding his left wing and rear thus exposed to a superior force, was driven as far as Wurtzburg, where they were again overtaken, and being once more defeated, they were seized with a panic, and immediately disbanded.

The conquests of Moreau were now become useless, in consequence of the defeat of Jourdan. The former, after conducting his victorious troops from the banks of the Rhine, to those of the Danube and the Isere, and proving successful in no less than five pitched battles, was now obliged to commence his celebrated retreat, which he executed with great skill and extraordinary judgment. Having completely deceived the Austrians relative to the route he intended to take, he crossed the Lech, on the 11th of September, and retired in an orderly manner, defeating all the Austrian corps which attempted to oppose him. On the 1st of October, finding himself closely pursued, he attacked General Latour, whom, after a long and bloody action, he totally defeated. Having at length forced the passes of the Black Forest, and penetrated through a defile called the Valley of Hell, the name of which sufficiently expresses the nature of the country, Moreau, at the head of an army fatigued by the length of its march through a hostile country of more than 300 miles in extent, destitute of shoes, and rendered sickly by

continual rains, passed the Rhine at Huningen without molestation, and returned to Strasburg, the point whence he set out, on the 26th of October, leaving a strong garrison in Kehl, which, after a brave resistance, surrendered to the archduke.

In La Vendée, the domestic disturbances which had so long impeded the foreign exertions of the new republic, were early this year entirely overcome. Stofflet, the insurgent leader, who in the course of two years had defeated his opponents in more than a hundred actions, was surprised and taken by two republican officers, in the village of Langreniere, and executed at Angers on the 23d of February. The Vendéans and Chouans still, however, remaining attached to the cause of royalty, Charette continued to embrace every opportunity of annoyance, until, at length, being totally defeated, and his followers completely dispersed, after wandering some time in the disguise of a peasant, he was discovered and taken, and, on the 28th of April, executed at Nantes. On the fall of these chiefs, all the insurgent departments readily submitted, and Hoche, who at Quiberon had acquired some distinction as a warrior, was empowered by the directory to adopt lenient methods for bringing over the remaining malcontents, and hailed as the pacificator of La Vendée.

The conquests of the French in Europe, did not prevent the English from persevering in their intention to capture all their remaining colonies, as well as those of their allies, between the tropics; and they were now enabled, by their strength, to obtain successes in that quarter unknown in any former period of the war. The mortality which had occurred among our troops in the West Indies, and the alarming accounts that were received of the exploits and intrigues of Victor Hugues, rendered a new army



absolutely necessary in that quarter. A naval force, with several regiments on board, was therefore prepared to act against the West Indian colonies of Holland; and, very early in the year, Demerara, Issequibo, and Berbice, surrendered to the British commanders. A debarkation was next effected on St. Lucia; and the enemy retired to Morne Chabot, one of the strongest positions of the island, which was carried by the gallantry of a small body under the orders of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. Morne Fortuné was next invested and taken; 2000 French soldiers were made prisoners, the insurgent negroes disarmed, and the island ceded to Britain. An expedition under General Knox, to St. Vincent's, undertaken on the 25th of May, was no less successful, where the French surrendered to the number of 700: the dispersion of the Caribbs immediately followed, and peace was soon after restored to the settlement. An attack was afterwards made on Grenada, which succeeded, with little bloodshed. A body of 7000 troops arrived early in the spring at the Mole in St. Domingo; but the mortality of the yellow fever was so great, and the numbers of the free blacks and mulattoes so formidable, that the war was waged with few advantages on our side. Toussaint, with his negro army, and Regaud at the head of the mulattoes, maintained a fierce, though desultory warfare; and the British with difficulty retained their extensive chain of posts, occupying a coast 300 miles in extent.

The Dutch government, determined not to suffer the loss of the Cape of Good Hope without a struggle to regain that important settlement, fitted out an expedition, consisting of two sail of the line, three smaller ships of war, and three armed vessels, which anchored on the 2d of August in the Bay of Sandanha. Just at the critical moment when General

Craig, with his small army, was marching down to the coast, to meet the invaders, they perceived a British fleet of two seventy-fours, five sixty-fours, a fifty gun ship, and six other vessels, advancing with a fair wind to the mouth of the harbour. The English admiral, aware of his superiority, anchored within cannon shot of the Dutch vessels, and sent a written summons to their commander to surrender. Rear-admiral Engelbartus Lucas, knowing that resistance must be unavailing, obeyed the summons, and on the 17th of August he surrendered his whole fleet, without firing a gun.

The progress of the republican arms on the Continent of Europe, the turbulent spirit of the inhabitants of Corsica, and the arrival of a body of French under General Cazette, to co-operate with internal revolt, rendered the possession of that island no longer possible to the British. Seizing on the heights above Bastia, the invaders captured the city: Fiorenzo, Bonifacio, and the tower of Mortella, were re-taken on the 20th of October, and considerable spoils fell into the hands of the victors, on the retreat of the English fleet from the adjoining bay, and on the final evacuation of the island. The island of Elba, however, which had been seized some months before, was still retained, and formed a useful arsenal, and a convenient station.

The French government, perceiving a crisis in the situation of Ireland, more favourable to the success of an invasion than any other which had occurred since the French revolution, attempted to strike a blow of no common importance. On the 20th of December, 15,000 chosen troops, under the command of Hoche, were embarked at Brest, intended to act, on their arrival, with a body of the disaffected Irish, who

were known to be considerable in numbers, and organized for insurrection. Admiral Villaret Joyeuse sailed from Brest with eighteen ships of the line, besides frigates and transports; the wind at first was favourable, but scarcely had the expedition left the outer harbour, when a storm arose, which dispersed the fleet, and separating the frigate which carried *Hoche*, obliged him to escape into the harbour of *Rochelle*, after being chased by two British vessels. Of the whole fleet, only eight two-deckers reached the coast of Ireland, under Admiral *Bouvet*, who appeared off *Bantry Bay*, but was forced from that station in a few days by tempestuous weather, and obliged to return to France without effecting a landing. In this expedition, the French lost three ships of the line, and three frigates, from the adverse elements; but they had the singular good fortune to escape Lord *Bridport* and Admiral *Colpoys*, the former of whom, with a British fleet under his command, arrived in *Bantry Bay* immediately after the departure of the enemy.

During the course of this year, the remaining commerce of France was harassed and diminished by the indefatigable exertions of the British cruisers, and upwards of seventy sail of armed vessels belonging to the enemy were captured, among which were five ships of the line and twelve frigates. Such was the determined courage of British seamen at this period, that scarcely any inferiority of force could deter them from a contest at sea, and even in port the enemy's vessels were frequently boarded and cut out, under the incessant fire of the batteries, and discharges of musketry. One of the most gallant actions during the war was fought by Captain *Trollope*, in the *Glatton* of fifty-four guns, on the 16th of July, with

six French frigates, which he beat off, though surrounded in such a manner as to be attacked at the same time on the lee-quarter, the weather-bow, and the stern. On the other hand, the French made a successful expedition to Newfoundland, where shipping and merchandize to a large amount was captured or destroyed in August, by a squadron under Admiral Richery, who returned to France without the loss of a single vessel.

Scarcely had the new government of France, under the directory, commenced its operations, when a difference arose between that country and America, originating in the treaty of amity and commerce, recently executed between Great Britain and the United States. This treaty was said to discover a disposition altogether inimical to France, and its provisions to be wholly incompatible with the idea of neutrality. By the treaty of 1778, still in force, the United States guaranteed to France the possession of their West India colonies; but by the treaty of 1795, they consented that even supplies of provisions sent to those islands from America, should be treated as illegal commerce. The directory, regarding the Americans in the light of secret enemies, made such depredations on their trade, under various pretences, as almost amounted to a commercial war; and an arret was issued on the 3d of July, enjoining French ships of war to observe the same conduct towards the vessels of neutral nations as they had hitherto suffered with impunity from the English. Thus began that oppressive system, by which neutral nations were doomed to be persecuted in the future progress of war, under the designation of Berlin and Milan decrees, and British Orders in Council. Towards the close of the summer, Mr. Monroe, the American am-

bassador at Paris, was recalled from his embassy, to the great dissatisfaction of the French government, who refused to receive his successor, Mr. Pinkney, in the same capacity ; and M. Adet, the French resident in Philadelphia, notified to the American government, on the 23d of November, that the directory had suspended him from the exercise of his functions. Such was the situation of the foreign relations of the United States, when General Washington resigned his government, and again retired to his paternal estate on the banks of the Potowmac.

When French influence, aided by the fears of the Spanish monarch, had produced a peace between those nations, there was reason to fear that the artful republicans would lead that passive prince into a close alliance, and endeavour to render his arms subservient to the views of France, but the Spaniards were not very eager to commence hostilities against their late allies ; a treaty of confederacy, however, was at length concluded, and on the 5th of October his Catholic Majesty declared war against Great Britain, on frivolous and absurd pretences. In Holland, a national convention of the inhabitants of the United Provinces met at the Hague on the 1st of March, and formed a constitution on the model of the French republic. One of the first acts of the new government was to declare war against England.

Public tranquillity was preserved at Paris with some difficulty, and many of the provinces of France exhibited, at this period, scenes of dreadful disorder. The Jacobins, who had hitherto filled the principal places under government, were enraged at witnessing the return of moderate principles, and manifested their hostility by exercising their power, where they still remained in office, in the most cruel and op-

pressive manner. Two deep conspiracies were formed for insurrections in the capital, which would have revived all the horrors of the early stages of the revolution, but they were discovered a short time before the intended execution. Other insurrections in various parts of the country also took place, but they were all quickly suppressed. The directory next determined to submit to the operation of the law the sanguinary perpetrators of the massacres of September, 1792, and of a great number brought to trial, some were executed, and others imprisoned, but a large majority were acquitted. The directory then turned their attention to the subject of finance, the rapid decline of the credit of the assignats having rendered that species of paper altogether useless; and as gold and silver had disappeared, it was judged expedient to employ some other means to replace the debased currency. A law was accordingly passed, to sell the remainder of the national domains, for which the nation was to receive, in payment, a new paper fabrication, under the name of mandats, to be issued to the amount of 400,000,000 of livres; but in a very few months they sunk so low as one-fifth of the price affixed by the national treasury. In the midst of these difficulties, the committee of finance presented a report, containing a general statement of the public revenue, from which it appeared, that the expenditure during the last year amounted to 1000,000,000 livres, and that the ordinary annual revenue amounted to barely 500,000,000. To make up this enormous deficiency, various resources were pointed out, but the principal expedient was to be found in the sale of the church lands in the newly united provinces of the Netherlands.

Various had been the plans of annoyance against

this country projected by the French government ; but all had hitherto been delayed, or set aside as inadequate or impracticable, till it was suggested, that the most effectual mode of opposing England with advantage was to attack her commerce, by shutting out her manufactures from every port in Europe subject to French control, or under French influence. This new species of hostility was carried into execution with as much dispatch as the jarring interests of the continental powers would allow, and British manufactures soon found no legal entrance into any port on the continent, from the Elbe to the Adriatic, with the exception only of the ports of the Hans Towns, of Portugal, and of Russia.

Towards the close of the year, the confederacy against France lost another of its members, in the person of Catherine the Second, Empress of Russia, who died on the evening of the 6th of November. This extraordinary woman terminated a life of sixty-seven years, and a reign of thirty-four, in a fit of apoplexy. Her reign will always rank among the most splendid periods of Russian history, but its most glorious actions were blended with injustice and stained by cruelty ; and in the accomplishment of her ends, she never hesitated with respect to means. She was succeeded by her son, the Emperor Paul, who, having the most despotic notions of kingly right, considered the Bourbon family as iniquitously ejected from a possession which they derived from heaven. About the same time also died Victor Amadeus, King of Sardinia, at an advanced age, and his son, the Prince of Piedmont, succeeded to his precarious throne.

Although the war was still prosecuted between Great Britain and France with undiminished energy,

the governors of both countries found it necessary to remove the impression, that the contest was as interminable in its duration, as it was indefinite in its objects; and with this view, his Majesty, in his speech from the throne at the opening of the new Parliament, on the 6th of October, 1796, declared that he had omitted no endeavours for setting on foot negotiations to restore peace to Europe; in consequence of which, a way was now opened to an immediate negotiation, which must produce an honourable peace for us and our allies, or prove to what cause alone the prolongation of the war was to be ascribed. For this purpose, his Majesty said, he would immediately send a person to Paris, with full powers to treat for this object, and it was his anxious wish that the negotiation might lead to the restoration of general peace. But it was evident that nothing could so much contribute to give effect to the negotiation, as a manifestation that we possessed both the determination and the resources to oppose, with increased activity and energy, an enemy who had openly professed a design to attempt a descent upon these kingdoms. On the propriety of entering upon a negotiation with republican France, some difference of opinion existed between ministers and their supporters; and the friends of Mr. Burke adhered to that great statesman's original opinion, that the restoration of monarchy and the ancient orders, under certain modifications, ought to be the sole and avowed purpose of the war; that no peace could be secure until that object was effected; and that we must either conquer the revolution, or the revolution would conquer us. These sentiments were particularly adopted by Earl Fitzwilliam, and, after opposing the address on the King's speech, he entered on the



journals of the House of Lords a very elaborate protest, assigning ten distinct reasons for refusing to concur in an address of approbation on his Majesty's speech, announcing the opening of a negociation for peace with the French republic.

The English cabinet had, in the month of March, commissioned Mr. Wickham, the British ambassador to the Helvetic States, to apply to M. Barthelemi, who was then engaged in diplomatic agencies at Basle, to inquire if the government of France were disposed to enter into a negociation with his Majesty and his allies. M. Barthelemi was instructed to answer, that the executive government of France ardently desired to procure for the republic a just, honourable, and solid peace, but an indispensable condition of any treaty entered into for that purpose, was the retention of those conquests which had actually been annexed to the territory of the republic. This reply, expressing a decided resolution not to surrender the Austrian Netherlands to the Emperor of Germany, displayed, in the opinion of the British ministry, a temper so remote from any disposition for peace, that the correspondence between the two ministers ceased, and both parties proceeded to open the campaign. On the 6th of September, Lord Grenville addressed a note to Count Wedel Jarlsberg, the Danish ambassador in London, requesting that he would transmit, through the Danish envoy at Paris, a declaration expressive of his Britannic Majesty's desire to conclude a peace on just and honourable conditions, and demanding the necessary passports for a person of confidence, whom his Majesty would send to Paris with a commission to discuss, with the government there, all the measures most proper to produce so desirable an end. The directory

replied, that the executive government would not receive or answer any overture from the enemies of the French republic, transmitted through any intermediate channel; but that, if England would send persons furnished with full powers and official papers, they might, upon the frontiers, demand the passports necessary for proceeding to Paris. Passports were accordingly applied for and obtained, and Sir James Harris, the negociator, who had been lately called to the peerage, under the title of Lord Malmesbury, being nominated plenipotentiary to the French republic, repaired to Paris on the 22d of October. Two days after his arrival, the negotiations were opened by a memorial from his lordship, stating that, from the uninterrupted success of her naval war, Great Britain found herself in a situation to have no restitution to demand of France; from which, on the contrary, she had taken establishments and colonies of the highest importance, and of value almost incalculable; but she was willing to restore her own conquests in lieu of the acquisitions which France had won from her allies, as a basis for a treaty, and therefore proposed a general principle of reciprocal restitution. The executive directory replied, that, considering the British ambassador to be the agent of Great Britain only, and not understanding him to have a commission to act for the allied powers, they could not now enter into the concerns of the other states, which could tend only to multiply the combinations, and increase the difficulties of the negotiation; but that as soon as he should procure sufficient powers from those allies, they would hasten to give an answer to the specific propositions which should be submitted to them. To these observations they thought proper to add an opinion, that the Bri-

tish government was insincere in its overture; that its object was to prevent, by general propositions, the partial propositions of other powers, and to obtain from the people of England the means of continuing the war, by throwing the odium of a refusal to negotiate a peace upon the republic. The British minister, disdaining to reply to the insinuations thrown out by the directory, stated, in reply, that he had not been commissioned to enter into a separate treaty, but that Great Britain proposed to make common cause with her allies. The directory rejoined, that in a question of reciprocal restitution, the chief object of consideration was the relative condition of the respective parties; that, of the original confederates, some had become the friends of France, and others observed a strict neutrality; that the remaining allies of Great Britain were weakened by their losses, and the desertion of their associates; and that France could not, in a negotiation for terms, forget the circumstances in which she was placed. Having thus admitted the principle of compensation, M. de la Croix, the French negociator, in a note to Lord Malmsbury, dated the 27th of November, again requested him to point out expressly, and without delay, the objects of reciprocal compensations which he had to propose. His lordship was now obliged to consult his court, and the negotiation was suspended till the 17th of December, on which day his lordship submitted, in two formal and confidential memorials, that France should restore all her conquests made in any of the dominions of the Emperor of Germany, or in Italy, and that Great Britain should render back all her acquisitions gained from France in the East and West Indies; that Russia and Portugal should be included in the treaty; that

no obstacle would be interposed, on the part of his Britannic Majesty, against Spain becoming a party to the negociation; and that in case Holland was reinstated, in all respects, in the same political situation in which she stood before the war, the colonial possessions captured by Great Britain might be restored, and the *status ante bellum*, with respect to territorial possessions, re-established in her favour; but if, on the contrary, Holland should remain a republic, their Britannic and Imperial Majesties would be obliged to seek, in territorial acquisitions, those compensations, and that security, which such a state of things would render indispensable. At the time that these memorials were delivered by Lord Malmsbury to M. de la Croix, a long and animated conversation took place between the negociators, in the course of which the French minister inquired, whether, in placing the memorials before the directory, he was to state the disuniting of Belgium from France as a *sine qua non*, from which his Majesty would not depart. Lord Malmsbury replied, that it most certainly was, and that any proposal which would have the Netherlands annexed to France, would be attended with much greater benefit to that power, and less to the allies, than the present relative situation of the belligerent powers could entitle the French government to expect. In the course of conversation, M. de la Croix repeatedly said, that this difficulty relative to the Netherlands was one that could not be overcome, and two days after, Lord Malmsbury received a letter, requiring him to deliver, within twenty-four hours, his ultimatum, signed by himself. His lordship replied, that to demand an ultimatum, in so peremptory a manner, before the two powers had communicated to each other their respective pre-

tensions, was to shut the door against all negotiation; but he repeated, that he was ready to enter into the discussion of the proposals of his court, or of any *contre-projet* which might be delivered to him on the part of the executive directory. The directory rejoined, in a note of the 19th of December, that they would listen to no proposal contrary to the constitution, to the laws, and to the treaties, which bound the republic; and as Lord Malmsbury announced, at every communication, that he was in want of the opinion of his court, from which it resulted, that he acted a part merely passive in the negotiation, his presence at Paris was rendered useless, and he was required to depart therefrom within two days, with all the persons who had accompanied and followed him; and to quit, as expeditiously as possible, the territory of the republic; but that if the British cabinet was desirous of peace, the executive directory was ready to follow the negotiations, according to the basis laid down in the present note, by the reciprocal channel of couriers. Lord Malmsbury replied that he was preparing to quit Paris on the morrow, and demanded the necessary passports for himself and suite: on the 20th he quitted the French capital, and repaired to England.

Thus terminated the first negotiation for peace between Great Britain and the republic of France. The British ministry, considering its abrupt conclusion as arising totally from France, published a manifesto, on the 27th of December, enlarging upon the pacific dispositions of the British government, and setting forth the malignant hostility of the enemy.

This manifesto being laid before Parliament, Mr. Pitt, after a brilliant exordium, in which he lamented the failure of the attempt to restore the relations of

peace, proceeded to take a review of the circumstances that preceded and attended the late negotiations, and insisted that their rupture was wholly imputable to the government of France. The enemy demanded, not as an ultimatum, but as a preliminary, to retain all those territories of which the chance of war had given them a temporary possession, and respecting which they thought proper, contrary to the law of nations, to pass a constitutional decree, declaring that these should not be alienated from the republic. But this perverse and monstrous claim, in virtue of which, territories acquired by force of arms were annexed to a state, during the continuance of the war in which such acquisitions were made, could never be supposed to supersede the treaties of other powers, and the known and public obligations of the several nations in Europe. Yet this had been the pretension to which the French government laid claim, and the acknowledgment of which they held out as a preliminary of negotiation to the King of Great Britain and his allies. And not content with setting up this claim to abrogate treaties previously concluded, they had offered a studied insult to his Majesty, by ordering his ambassador to quit Paris, and proposing that the negotiation should be carried on by means of couriers. The question, then, said Mr. Pitt, "is not how much will you give for peace; but how much disgrace will you suffer at the outset? how much degradation will you submit to as a preliminary? In these circumstances, then, are we to persevere in the war, with a spirit and energy worthy of the British name, and of the British character? or are we, by sending couriers to Paris, to prostrate ourselves at the feet of a stubborn and supercilious government, to yield to what they may require, and

to submit to whatever they may impose? I hope there is not a hand in his Majesty's councils which would sign the proposal; that there is not a heart in this house that would sanction the measure; and that there is not an individual in the British dominions who would act as the courier." Mr. Fox, in reply, maintained that the whole amount of the minister's splendid oration was, to admit that we had been four years engaged in a war, unprecedented in expense, both in men and in money, and that we had done nothing; that, in fact, the enemy, instead of being humbled and ruined, as had been so often and so confidently foretold, had now become more unreasonable and dictatorial in their pretensions than ever. Mr. Fox concluded his speech by proposing an address to the throne, recommending that his Majesty's faithful Commons should proceed to investigate the conduct of his Majesty's ministers, who had involved this nation in her present misfortunes, and produced the failure of the late negotiations. This amendment was negatived by 212 against 36; and a similar fate awaited a similar motion made by the Earl of Oxford, in the House of Lords.

On the 18th of October, the House of Commons resolved itself into a committee, to take into consideration that part of his Majesty's speech which alluded to the preparations making by the enemy to invade these kingdoms. In addition to the naval force now actually employed, and which the premier declared to be more formidable than had ever existed at any former period of our history, he proposed, first, a levy of 15,000 men, from the different parishes, for the sea service, and for recruiting the regular regiments of the line: his second proposal was to raise a supplementary militia, to consist of

60,000 men, not to be immediately called out, but to be enrolled, officered, and completely trained, so as to be ready in a moment of danger; and his third military project was to raise a force of 20,000 irregular cavalry. These propositions were passed into laws early in the session; but the plan for raising the irregular cavalry force being found difficult of application, the measure was superseded, in a great degree, by the numerous volunteer corps of yeomanry cavalry which pressed forward in the service of their country. During this session, also, a bill was introduced, by Mr. Dundas, for raising and embodying a militia force in Scotland, which was much resisted in that part of the kingdom. On the 21st of October, 195,000 men were voted for the land service, for the year 1797, and, soon afterwards, 120,000 seamen and marines for the navy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his annual financial statement on the 7th of December, from which it appeared, that 18,000,000*l.* would be wanted, by way of loan, exclusive of 5,500,000*l.* of exchequer bills, and about 13,500,000*l.* of victualling, transport, and navy bills, which he proposed to fund. This loan was followed by a second, during the same session of Parliament, amounting also to 18,000,000*l.*, comprehending a great variety of deficiencies, and including a vote of credit for 3,000,000*l.* to be remitted to the Emperor of Germany. The terms of the loan were highly advantageous to the moneyed interest, for every 100*l.* so raised 175*l.* 3 *per cent.* and 20*l.* 4 *per cent.* stock being granted by government, with a long annuity of 6*s.* 6*d.*: and the bills, though at a very considerable discount in the market, were funded at par. To defray the interest on these loans, permanent taxes were imposed to the amount of 3,416,000*l.*, and the



pressure of the war was now severely felt by many classes. Mr. Pitt having admitted, on moving the vote of credit, that 1,200,000*l.* had been advanced to the emperor without the previous consent of Parliament, Mr. Fox observed, that if the measure was not reprobated, he should think that man a hypocrite who pretended to see any distinction between this government and an absolute monarchy; and the majority in favour of ministers, on the motion for a vote of censure, was smaller than usual.

Scarcely at any period had the aspect of public affairs, in this country, assumed a more gloomy and dispirited complexion, than at the commencement of the year 1797. The rapid and enormous increase of the national debt had created an alarm among many of the proprietors of the public funds, and under this impression, sums to a great amount were sold out of the stocks, and vested in other securities. The Bank had, in the course of the war, advanced immense sums to the government, far beyond its usual aid to the public treasury; and as a considerable part of these advances consisted of remittances to foreign powers, especially to the Emperor of Germany, made in coin, the gold and silver in the Bank were greatly diminished. The consequences of this had been long foreseen by the directors, and as early as the year 1795, they had expressed to Mr. Pitt their expectations that he would arrange his finances, for the year, in such a manner as not to depend on any further assistance from them. This remonstrance they repeated on the 8th of October, in the same year, and again in 1796, but they still continued to afford accommodation to the treasury. In the beginning of 1797, the minister requested still further advances, and intimated, at the same time, that a loan amount-

ing to the sum of 1,500,000*l.*, beyond the accommodation to the English treasury, would be wanted for Ireland. On the 9th of February, the governor of the Bank informed Mr. Pitt, that, under the present state of their accommodation to government here, to agree with his request, of making a further advance of 1,500,000*l.* as a loan to Ireland, would threaten ruin to the Bank, and most probably bring the directors to shut up their doors. Another cause powerfully co-operated to produce an alarming derangement in the affairs of the national Bank. The dread of invasion had induced the capitalists, as well as the more opulent farmers and traders, at a distance from the metropolis, to withdraw their money from the hands of the country bankers, with whom they had been accustomed to deposit it; and the run upon the provincial banking houses soon extended to the capital. On the 20th of February, an unusual demand was made by the holders of notes upon the Bank of England for specie, and this run, which increased on the 21st, became so rapid and urgent on the four following days, as to excite the most serious alarm, and to oblige the directors to submit their situation to the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the 26th, government found it necessary to interfere, and, on that day, an order of the Privy Council was issued, prohibiting the directors of the Bank from issuing any cash in payment till the sense of Parliament should be taken. The consideration of this important subject was brought, with as little delay as possible, before the two Houses of Parliament, and the first step taken was to appoint two secret committees, to ascertain the assets of the Bank. The public apprehension was materially allayed by their reports, delivered early in March, from which it ap-

peared, that on the 15th of February, the last day of paying gold and silver at the Bank, the amount of the demands upon the company was 13,770,390*l.*; that their assets, exclusive of the permanent debt due from government, amounted to the sum of 17,597,280*l.*; so that there remained a surplus of 3,826,890*l.*; to which must be added the sum of 11,666,800*l.* three *per cent.* stock, lent at different times to government on parliamentary security, which being estimated at fifty *per cent.*, agreeably to the actual price at that time of the three *per cent.* consols, the whole of the capital vested in the corporation of the Bank, after the payment of all demands, amounted to the enormous sum of 9,660,290*l.* On these reports, Mr. Pitt grounded a bill, enabling the Bank to issue notes in payment of demands upon them, instead of cash, agreeably to the late order of council to that effect, and a clause of the utmost importance was introduced into the act, for preventing any person from being held to bail who offered Bank of England notes in discharge of a debt; though this law, by leaving the creditor the option of demanding cash in payment, instead of notes, did not actually constitute them a legal tender. From this time the circulation of gold coin in a great measure ceased, and notes, from 20*s.* and upwards, became the general medium of circulation.

Animated debates took place in Parliament respecting the affairs of the Bank; and the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Grey respectively moved a series of resolutions, condemning the minister's intercourse and concerns with that body, and attributing the embarrassments of the company to his negligence and prodigality; but the proposed votes of censure were rejected, by large majorities, in both Houses.

Scarcely had the alarm created by the stoppage of cash payments at the Bank begun to subside, than a spirit of mutiny and disaffection broke out among the fleet at Spithead. Great dissatisfaction had for some time prevailed respecting the pay and provisions of the sailors, and, in the month of February, several anonymous letters were received by Lord Howe from the fleet, praying for his lordship's influence towards obtaining an increase of the seamen's pay, and an improvement in the quality and quantity of their provisions; at the same time a correspondence was going on, by letter, between the crews of the different ships, and a committee of delegates was appointed to obtain a redress of grievances. These proceedings were conducted with so much secrecy, that it was not till the 15th of April, when Lord Bridport made a signal to prepare for sea, that they began to be suspected among the superior officers of the fleet. Instead of weighing anchor, as the signal imported, the seamen of the admiral's ship all ran up the shrouds, and saluted the crews of the adjoining ships with three cheers, which being instantly answered in the same manner, it became manifest that the spirit of disobedience was general. The next step of the delegates was to assemble in council in the cabin of the admiral's ship, and to place the officers in custody, to prevent them from going on shore. Here a petition to the admiral was drawn up, and presented on the spot, accompanied with an intimation, that, till the prayer of the petition for an increase of wages and a regulation in the ratio of provisions took place, they should not quit their present station, "unless the enemy was known to be at sea." On the 18th, a committee of the Admiralty, with Earl Spencer at their head, repaired to Portsmouth, with a view to

induce the refractory seamen to resume the duty they owed to their country, and on the 23d, the admiral returned to his ship, when, after hoisting his flag, he informed the crew that he had brought with him a redress of all their grievances, accompanied by his Majesty's pardon for the offenders. After some deliberation, these offers were cheerfully accepted, and every man hastened to return to his duty. It was now supposed that all cause of dissatisfaction was removed, but when, on the 7th of May, Lord Bridport made the signal to put to sea, every ship at St. Helen's refused to obey. This second mutiny arose, it appeared, from a groundless apprehension on the part of the seamen, that government did not mean to accede to their demands. A meeting of the delegates was again convened to be held on board the London; but Vice-admiral Colpoys, having determined to prevent the illegal assembly from being held on board his ship, ordered the marines to fire upon the boats as they approached, and five seamen were killed in the skirmish which ensued. The crew of the London, irritated by this resistance on the part of the admiral, now turned their guns towards the stern, and threatened to blow all aft into the water unless the commander submitted, and Admiral Colpoys and Captain Griffiths were both taken into custody by their crew, and confined for several hours in separate cabins. In this state of mutiny the sailors at Portsmouth remained till the 14th of May, when Lord Howe arrived from the Admiralty with plenary powers to settle all differences; and as his lordship was the bearer of an act of Parliament which had passed on the 9th, granting an additional allowance of pay to the seamen, and also of his Majesty's proclamation of pardon, the flag of insurrection was

struck, and the fleet prepared to put to sea to encounter the enemy. The public saw with infinite satisfaction the extinction of this dangerous spirit of disaffection; but a new mutiny in another quarter, which for boldness and extent is without a parallel in the naval history of Britain, soon converted their pleasure into alarm and consternation.

Well affected to their country as British seamen generally are, the concessions made to them were unfortunately enforced, not granted, and the same method lay open for obtaining further claims. The North Sea fleet, as well as the ships lying at the Nore, imitating the dangerous conduct of the crews at Spithead, but greatly exceeding them in the extent of their demands, chose delegates from every ship, and appointed a seaman of the name of Richard Parker, a bold and enterprising man, as their president. The demands of these mutineers comprehended a greater freedom of absence from ships in harbour, a more punctual discharge of arrears of pay, a more equal distribution of prize money, and a general abatement of the rigours of discipline.

On the 23d of May, the flag of Admiral Buckner was struck on board the *Sandwich*, and the red flag, the symbol of mutiny, hoisted in its stead. To the daily conferences of this mutinous usurpation, each man of war sent two delegates, and, besides these, there was a committee of twelve in every ship, who determined not only all affairs relating to the internal management of the vessel, but instructed their delegates, and decided upon their merits. The delegates went on shore daily, and after holding their meetings, paraded the streets and ramparts with music and flags. The arrival of Lord Keith and Sir Charles Grey at Sheerness, at length put an end to

these audacious processions. The mutiny had then risen to the most alarming height, and it was intimated to the seamen that no further concessions than what had already been made by the legislature would be granted. Some of the most desperate of their number suggested the idea of carrying the ships into an enemy's port; but the majority revolted at so treacherous a proceeding, alleging that a redress of grievances, as it was their primary, so it should be their ultimate object. For the purpose of extorting compliance with their demands, they proceeded to block up the Thames, by refusing a passage either up or down the river to the London trade; and, to supply their present wants, they took from a vessel three hundred sacks of flour, which they distributed throughout the fleet.

On the 4th of June, the whole fleet at the Nore celebrated his Majesty's birth-day by a royal salute; and on the 6th they were joined by four men of war and a sloop, which had deserted from the fleet of Admiral Duncan, then in Yarmouth Roads. This accession of strength swelled the mutinous fleet to twenty-four sail, consisting of eleven ships of the line and thirteen frigates. The appearance of such a multitude of shipping under the command of a set of common sailors, in a state of insubordination, formed a singular and awful spectacle. Government, in the mean time, were not inattentive to the obligations imposed upon them by the perilous situation of the country, and a proclamation was issued, offering his Majesty's pardon to all such of the mutineers as should immediately return to their duty. This was speedily followed by two acts of Parliament, the former for more effectually restraining the intercourse from the shore with the ships in a state of mutiny,

and the latter for punishing with the utmost severity of the law any attempt to seduce seamen or soldiers into mutinous practices; but the master-stroke of policy was to be found in the removal of all the buoys from the mouth of the Thames, and the neighbouring coast, by which any large ship that should attempt to sail away would be exposed to the most imminent danger of running a-ground; while furnaces and red-hot balls were kept in readiness at Sheerness, to repel any attack that might be made on that place by the mutineers. The last attempt at reconciliation by treaty was made through the Earl of Northesk, who commanded the Monmouth, to whom the delegates communicated the terms on which alone they would give up the ships, and requested that he would submit them to the King, and return on board with a clear and positive answer within fifty-four hours; intimating that the whole must be complied with, or they would immediately put the fleet to sea. These terms, which were submitted the next day to the King in council, were rejected, and the intelligence of their refusal was communicated by Captain Knight, of the Inflexible. All hopes of accommodation being thus at an end, preparations were making to enforce obedience to the laws, from the works at Sheerness, but the defection of several of the ships, on the 9th, with other symptoms of disunion amongst the mutineers, rendered the application of force unnecessary: on the 10th, several of the mutinous ships, being reduced to great exigencies for want of fresh provisions and water, struck the red flag: on the 12th, all but seven of the ships hoisted the union flag, to signify their wish to return to obedience; and, on the following morning, five out of the seven remaining vessels ran away



from the mutinous ships, and sought protection under the guns of the fort of Sheerness. All further resistance was now in vain, and after a fruitless attempt to obtain a general pardon, the crew of the Sandwich steered that ship on the following morning into Sheerness, where Parker was arrested by a picquet-guard of soldiers, with a person of the name of Davies, who had acted as captain under him, and about thirty other delegates, all of whom were committed to the black hole in the garrison. One of the delegates, of the name of Wallace, more desperate than the rest, being determined neither to outlive his power, nor to submit to the ignominy of a public execution, shot himself dead on the appearance of the soldiers. Thus all resistance to the authority of the officers ceased, and the public mind recovered its former composure, by the entire extinction of this alarming revolt.

The trial of Parker commenced on the 22d of June, before a court-martial, of which Sir T. Pasley was president. The prisoner was charged with various acts of mutiny, committed on board his Majesty's fleet, at the Nore; of disobedience of orders; and of contempt of the authority of his officers. The facts being clearly established, the court adjudged him to death; on which, with astonishing composure, he addressed them as follows: "I bow to your sentence with all due submission, being convinced I have acted under the dictates of a good conscience. God, who knows the hearts of all men, will, I hope, receive me. I hope that my death will atone to the country; and that those brave men who have acted with me will receive a general pardon: I am satisfied they will all then return to their duty with alacrity." He was executed on board the Sandwich, and met his fate with fortitude. A great number of the other muti-

neers received sentence of death, and several of the ringleaders were executed ; but a pardon was granted to the far greater number of those who were condemned. The French, whose revolutionary principles had certainly some weight in producing these commotions, exulted at the intelligence of the mutiny, and, while they lamented its extinction, conceived hopes of the eruption of future discontent in the same branch of the service, or in the military department ; but the true-hearted seamen resumed their habits of order and submission, and the soldiers, who also received an augmentation of pay, preserved their loyalty unimpaired.

Ever since the recal of Earl Fitzwilliam from Ireland, the discontents of that country had continued to increase, and several parishes, baronies, and even counties, were declared to be out of the King's peace. The Earl of Moira, on the 21st of March, moved in the House of Lords for an address to his Majesty, praying that he would be graciously pleased to interpose his paternal interference, to remove the discontents which prevailed in Ireland, and created the most serious alarm for that country, and for the dearest interests of Britain. Lord Grenville, in reply, insisted that the present motion could not be adopted, without tearing asunder every bond of union, and breaking the solemn contract subsisting between the two countries. Instead of remedying discontents, the motion now submitted to the House would increase them, and induce the Irish to imagine that their own legislature was regardless of their welfare. The motion was ultimately negatived by a majority of 70 to 20 voices ; and a similar one made two days afterwards in the House of Commons, by Mr. Fox, was also lost.

The inhabitants of Westminster, and of several other cities and populous districts, assembled in the spring of the present year, and numerous petitions were voted at these meetings, *praying for the removal of ministers.* Encouraged by these proceedings, which, however, were by no means general, the Earl of Suffolk moved, in the House of Lords, on the 27th of March, that an address might be presented to his Majesty, humbly requesting him to dismiss from his councils the first Lord of the Treasury, whose pernicious measures had deprived him of the confidence of the country. This motion was followed, on the 19th of May, by another in the Commons, moved by Mr. Alderman Combe, for an address to the King, beseeching him to dismiss from his councils his present ministers, as the most likely means of obtaining a permanent and speedy peace. In favour of these addresses, it was urged that ministers had plunged the country into an unnecessary war, which had added 130,000,000*l.* to the national debt, and had imposed taxes to the amount of 6,500,000*l.* annually; that, instead of restoring monarchy in France, they had been compelled to recognise the republic; that, instead of weakening the powers, or dismembering the territories, of the enemy, they had suffered them to add the Netherlands, Holland, and a great part of Italy, to the republic; that they had neglected the proper opportunities of making peace, and that their negotiations for that desirable object had been conducted with insincerity; that, to their profusion were imputable all the embarrassments that had so lately distressed the national Bank, and to their folly and misconduct, all the insubordination that had shown itself in the navy, the discontents that prevailed among the people of England, and the spirit of re-

bellion which had begun to manifest itself in Ireland; that their boast of having preserved their country from jacobinical principles was supposititious, but that the evils they had brought upon the country were real, and would be permanent as the government itself. It was contended, on the other hand, that the country owed to ministers the three greatest blessings that a country could possess—liberty, internal tranquillity, and general prosperity: that under their administration, juries had been invested with the power of judging of the point of law, as well as the matter of fact; that when Mr. Pitt came into office, the funds were at 64, but, by his financial abilities, they had been raised, before the war broke out, to 98; that even during the war, into which it was impossible for ministers to avoid entering, our trade, manufactures, and agriculture, had continued to flourish; that though the success of our allies had not equalled our expectations, yet, as for ourselves, our success as well as our exertions had been unparalleled. The motion for the address was negatived, in the Peers, by 86 to 16; and in the Commons, by 242 to 59.

On the 26th of May, Mr. Grey made his final motion relative to a reform in Parliament, which was lost by a majority of 258 to 63 voices, and no other business worthy of historical note occurred till the 20th of July, when Parliament was prorogued by a speech from the throne, in which his Majesty intimated, that he was again engaged in a negociation for peace, which nothing should be wanting on his part to bring to a successful termination, on such conditions as were consistent with the security, honour, and essential interests of his dominions.

Previously to entering on the progress of affairs on the continent of Europe, it will be proper to detail

the naval operations of 1797, the activity and general success of which fully prove, that however a spirit of insubordination may affect them for a time, British seamen can ever be relied upon when opposed to the enemies of their country. The French republic, having at her disposal the navy of Spain, as well as that of Holland, proposed to her confederates, that the greatest part of the Spanish navy should sail in the early part of the year to Brest, where, being joined by the French ships of war in that port, they should afterwards form a junction with the Dutch fleet; and that this armada, then swelled to upwards of seventy sail of the line, should bear down upon England, and having humbled the lofty pretensions of her naval power, should lay the foundation for her future subjugation. This design soon became known to the British ministry, and, to frustrate its execution, a fleet under Sir John Jervis was appointed to blockade the port of Cadiz, while Admiral Duncan was stationed off the coast of Holland, to watch the movements of the Dutch fleet in the Texel. Sir John Jervis having received intelligence on the 13th of February, from Captain Foote, of the *Niger*, stationed off Carthagena, that the fleet under Admiral Don Joseph de Cordova was at sea, immediately set sail in quest of it. At the dawn of the succeeding day the enemy was descried off Cape St. Vincent, but as the weather happened to be extremely hazy, it was not until ten o'clock that a signal from a British frigate announced the enemy's fleet to consist of twenty-seven sail of the line. The British commander, though his squadron comprised no more than fifteen ships, resolved to bring them to action, and at half-past eleven o'clock formed in the most complete order of sailing in two lines. By carrying

a press of sail, the British came down upon the enemy before they had time to form in order of battle; and, notwithstanding their immense superiority, the admiral ordered the fleet to bear directly through them, which was gallantly performed. They then tacked, and, by this bold and skilful manœuvre, separated about one-third of the Spanish ships from the main body, which, by a partial cannonade, were prevented from a rejunction, and obliged to fall to leeward. By the great exertions of the ships which had the good fortune to come up with the main body of the enemy on the larboard tack, four of their ships of the line were captured by the British, and the action ceased about five o'clock in the evening. This brilliant victory ranks among those which have most conspicuously illustrated the superior skill and courage of British seamen, and much to the credit of the commander-in-chief, to whom the *Salvador del Mundo* of 112 guns struck, only a few English ships were engaged in the contest. Commodore Nelson, in the *Captain*, of 74 guns, distinguished himself greatly, by boarding the *San Nicolas* and *San Josef* in succession, in which he only lost one officer, twenty seamen, and three marines; and, although the slain and wounded in the Spanish ships could not be less than 1200, more than half that number being diminished in the crews of the captured ships only, the loss of the British did not exceed 300. Great rejoicings took place throughout the nation on the intelligence of this well-timed victory; the fleet was honoured with the thanks of both Houses of Parliament; the King conferred the title of *Earl St. Vincent*, with a pension of 3000*l.* a-year, on the admiral-in-chief; Vice-admiral Thompson, and Rear-admiral Parker, were created baronets; Commodore Nelson was invested

with the order of the Bath; Captain R. Calder was knighted; and gold medals and chains were presented to all the commanders.

Having determined to fit out an expedition against Ireland, the French directory gave orders to embark a body of troops on board the Dutch fleet in the Texel. On the first intelligence of these preparations, which took place early in the year, a powerful squadron was sent to the North Sea, under the command of Admiral Duncan, to intercept the enemy; it was not, however, till the month of October, and not till the British admiral had returned to Yarmouth to refit, that the Dutch fleet put to sea, on which the English commander, who had received the most early and accurate information of the enemy's movements, suddenly returned to his station. The command of the enemy's fleet, which was somewhat inferior in weight of metal to that of the British, was confided to Admiral de Winter, who had distinguished himself in the army under General Pichegru, and on his receiving orders to risk an engagement, the troops were disembarked, from which it is more than probable that his destination was to have joined the French fleet in Brest, and to have taken in troops there. No sooner had De Winter quitted the Texel, than Captain Trollope, who had been stationed with a light squadron of observation at the mouth of that river, gave notice of his approach, and on the 11th of October, Admiral Duncan gave orders for a general chase, and the Dutch ships were soon discovered drawn up in a line of battle on the larboard tack, between Camperdown and Egmont, the land being about nine miles to leeward. Admiral Duncan, whose fleet consisted of sixteen sail of the line, exclusive of frigates, finding there was no time to be lost, made the signal to bear up, break the

enemy's line, and engage them to leeward, each ship her opponent, by which the British squadron placed itself between the enemy and the land, whither they were fast approaching. The admiral's signal being obeyed with promptitude, Vice-admiral Onslow, in the *Monarch*, bore down on the enemy's rear in the most gallant manner, his division following his example, and the action commenced about forty minutes past twelve o'clock. The *Venerable* soon got through the enemy's line, and a close action was begun on their van, which lasted nearly two hours and a half, when all the masts of the Dutch admiral's ship were observed to go by the board; she was, however, defended for some time longer in a most gallant manner, but being overpowered by numbers, her colours were at length struck, and Admiral de Winter was brought on board the *Venerable*; soon after, the ship bearing the vice-admiral's flag was also dismasted, and surrendered to Vice-admiral Onslow; and these, with three of 68 guns, two of 64, two of 56, and two frigates, were taken possession of by the English. In the early part of the action, Rear-admiral Story, who commanded the centre division of the Dutch fleet, fled for the Texel in the *States-General* of 74 guns, with part of his division, and afterwards made a merit of having saved part of the fleet. The British squadron suffered much in their masts, yards, and rigging, and many of the ships lost a great number of men, but in no proportion to that of the enemy: the carnage on board the two ships that bore the admirals' flags was beyond all description, and did not amount to less than 250 men killed and wounded on board each ship. The total loss of the British was 191 killed, and 560 wounded, while the loss of the enemy must have been more than double.



When the battle ended, the English fleet was within five miles of the shore, from whence thousands of Dutch spectators witnessed the destruction of their navy, every manœuvre being distinctly seen. The votes of both Houses of Parliament greeted the arrival of the gallant sailors; many of the captains were gratified by medals; the venerable admiral was rewarded by the King with the dignity of Viscount Duncan of Camperdown, and a pension of 3000*l.* per annum; while Vice-admiral Onslow was created a baronet, and Captains Trollope and Fairfax knights banneret.

Cadiz was twice bombarded this year by Rear-admiral Nelson, under the command of Lord St. Vincent, first on the 23d of June, and secondly, on the 5th of July. By these operations, considerable injury was inflicted upon the city, and some mischief was done to the shipping in the harbour, but without materially advancing the objects of the war.

In February, the Spanish island of Trinidad capitulated to an expedition consisting of six sail of the line, and a number of troops, fitted out at Port Royal, in Martinico, under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Admiral Harvey. On the approach of the English, the Spaniards, who had a squadron of four ships of the line and one frigate lying at anchor in the gulf of Paria, set fire to their ships, and one line of battle ship only escaping the conflagration, fell into the hands of the victors; the governor and the garrison were made prisoners of war. The same commanders made an attempt, in the month of April, on the large and important island of Porto Rico; but this island being found too strong to be carried by a *coup-de-main*, the enterprise totally failed, and was attended with a loss to the assailants of upwards of 200 men.

An attack upon the Isle of Teneriffe, by a squadron of seven ships of war, commanded by Rear-admiral Nelson, and a force of 1000 marines, under Captain Troubridge, was still more unfortunate. On the 15th of July, the British expedition arrived before the port of Santa Cruz, and, having effected a landing, took possession of the town ; but they learnt, when too late, that the force under their command was utterly unequal either to carry the fort of Santa Cruz, or to contend with the military force of the island, now assembled to oppose them. Preparing therefore for a retreat, they had the misfortune to find that the violence of the surge on the beach had staved their boats, and reduced them to a mere wreck. In this situation they were summoned by the Spanish commander to surrender ; but this Captain Troubridge disdainfully rejected, adding, that while he had a man left alive he would not capitulate ; but that if he were allowed to re-embark without molestation, the squadron before the town would not injure it. To this the captain received a polite answer, stating, that for the purpose of sparing the effusion of blood, facilities would be afforded to himself and his followers to return to their ships ; and as soon as the capitulation to this effect was signed, the enemy very generously furnished them with supplies of wine and biscuits. The loss of lives in this attempt was equal to that sustained in the battle off Cape St. Vincent ; 44 privates were killed, 105 wounded, 97 drowned, and 5 unaccounted for ; Captain Richard Bowen, of the *Terpsichore*, and six lieutenants, lost their lives ; two captains, a lieutenant, and a midshipman, were wounded, and Rear-admiral Nelson lost his arm.

The French directory, after conquering so many kings, and making formidable preparations for the

invasion of Ireland, menaced also the territory of Britain, by ordering troops to be assembled on the coasts of the Channel, under the designation of the army of England; and, to add some weight to their resolves, they declared that "the conqueror of Italy," Buonaparte, was appointed to its command. In the early part of this year, and before Buonaparte had terminated his career in Italy, a strange attempt was made on the coast of Wales, by an expedition fitted out at the port of Brest. On the 22d of February, that part of the coast of Devonshire which lies at the mouth of the Bristol Channel, was surprised by the appearance of an enemy's force, which, entering the small port of Ilfracombe, scuttled some merchant vessels, and made an unsuccessful effort to destroy all the ships in the harbour. This invading squadron, which consisted of two frigates, and two sloops, next steered its course for the bay of Cardigan, in Wales, where, on the following day, they disembarked about 1500 criminals, attired as French troops, and provided with a proportionable quantity of arms and ammunition, but without field-pieces. On receiving information of this event, the Welsh peasantry, animated by the gentry of the country, seized their scythes, sickles, and pitchforks, and marched forth to meet the invaders. Lord Cawdor had assembled, in the course of a single day, a local force, consisting of 700 militia, fencibles, and yeomanry cavalry, and the French commander, perceiving his situation to be desperate, after having dispatched a letter to his lordship, proposing a capitulation, surrendered himself and his followers prisoners of war on the 26th. To add to the disaster of this extraordinary enterprise, the two frigates which accompanied the expedition were captured on their return to Brest, and the

whole proved as unfortunate in the execution, as it was unaccountable in its plan.

Though the maritime views of the French were baffled on every occasion, the success of the continental war afforded them ample compensation. At the commencement of the year, the Austrian General Alvinzi, at the head of 50,000 well appointed troops, and a formidable train of artillery, formed the determination to raise the blockade of Mantua, and having attacked and carried the French position, suddenly passed the Brenta, stormed the town of Cortona, and obliged a body of troops under Joubert to fall back upon Rivoli. Buonaparte, who had been for some time at Bologna, was no sooner apprized of this irruption, than he repaired to the heights of San Marco, and made such judicious dispositions, that Alvinzi, who expected an easy conquest, soon found himself surprised and defeated. The garrison of Mantua now despairing of succour, capitulated, after a long and brave resistance, on the 2d of February; and on the fall of this important fortress, by which the imperial arms were expelled from Italy, Buonaparte published a proclamation to his army, in which he stated, that they had proved victorious in fourteen pitched battles, and in seventy engagements; that they had taken from the enemy more than 100,000 prisoners, 500 field-pieces, and 2000 large cannon; that the contributions raised in the countries conquered by them, had supported, maintained, and paid the army, during the whole campaign; while 30,000,000 of livres had been sent to the minister of finance, for the increase of the public treasure; and, after glancing at their achievements against the kings and princes of Italy, he declared it to be his intention to carry the war into the hereditary states of Austria,

and requested them to recollect, that it was liberty they were about to present to the Hungarians, whose sovereign had disgraced himself, by submitting to be in the pay, and at the disposal of England.

The papal see, which, relying with confidence on the success of the Austrians, had imprudently resumed hostilities against the French, was now menaced with sudden ruin; for Buonaparte had published a proclamation, in which, after reproaching the holy father with subterfuge and perfidy, he threatened all who opposed the progress of the republican columns with the most exemplary vengeance. General Victor immediately entered Imola, and the pontifical army, abandoning the fertile plains of Romagna, took refuge on the summits of the Apennines, towards the sources of the Arno and the Tiber; the towns of Cesena, Forli, and Ravenna, submitted in succession; and the whole march of Ancona acknowledged the triumph of the three-coloured ensign, which was now displayed from the top of the holy chapel of Loretto; while the votive offerings of kings, popes, and emperors, became the prey of an unbelieving soldiery. When the French general arrived at Tolentino, and began to establish a republican form of government, his holiness, apprehensive lest he should march to the capital, at length determined to negotiate. He was consequently obliged to renounce all claim to Avignon and the Venaissin, to relinquish the three legations of Bologna, Ferrara, and Romagna; to furnish the statues, pictures, and treasure, stipulated in the former convention; and to pay a large sum of money towards the expenses of the war.

It was not without great difficulty that Francis II. was enabled to recruit his army; a great and last effort was, however, made, and a powerful body was

collected between the Tagliamento and the Piavè; while the French, who occupied the right bank of the latter river, and the left border of the Arisio, were prepared to oppose their progress. A variety of movements, and minor actions, having taken place, General Joubert penetrated to the banks of the Arisio, where he engaged the Austrians, and after a long and bloody action, during which he took 4000 prisoners, obtained possession of the bridge of Neumark; a second battle, equally unfortunate, was fought soon after at Trames; and the French now rushed into the hereditary dominions of the emperor: Massena seized the fort of Chiusa, the bridge of Carasola, and the town of Tarvis, while Bernadotte took possession of Gradisca, the capital of the Frioul, the capture of which rendered the French masters of all the Austrian possessions from the Alps to the sea. Goritz submitted without resistance; Trieste, the only port in the Adriatic appertaining to the emperor, followed its example; and, while scaling the Norick Alps, still covered with snow, Buonaparte endeavoured to conciliate the minds of the inhabitants by proclamations, in which he declared that the French armies were fighting for peace, and that they would not fail to extend protection to the peaceable Tyroleans. On the 26th of March the Austrians were again beaten, and on the 30th the whole of the French army arrived in the capital of the duchy of Carinthia. The greatest consternation now prevailed in Vienna, which was the avowed object of the French arms; on the other hand, though Buonaparte had beaten the Austrians in six different engagements, and destroyed one-half of their army, during a campaign that had lasted only twenty-one days, his situation was highly critical. The natives of the mountainous districts were attached

by habit to the dominion of the house of Austria ; and the offer of liberty, which exhibited so many charms to the fascinate inhabitants of the valleys, possessed but few blandishments for a people whose patriarchal manners were as yet undebased. The numerous defiles of those dreary regions ; the marked enmity of the peasantry ; the difficulty of obtaining supplies ; the danger of being surrounded, all operated powerfully on the mind of the conqueror, and he found it necessary to affect the language of moderation. He accordingly, on the 31st of March, addressed a letter to the archduke, making overtures of peace, to which the Austrian commander replied that he was not furnished with any powers to negotiate ; he however immediately transmitted Buonaparte's letter to Vienna, and in a few days received full powers from the emperor ; a suspension of arms took place ; and on the 18th of April, a preliminary treaty of peace was signed at the castle of Eckenwald, in Styria, which has since been known by the appellation of the treaty of Leoben, and which served as the foundation of the definitive treaty of Campo Formio.

On the Rhine, also, the French arms had been eminently successful, when the intelligence of the preliminaries of peace being signed put a stop to their progress. After this treaty, Augereau, at the head of 25,000 men, marched into Venice, and seizing on the arsenal and forts, demanded the three inquisitors, and ten principal members of the senate, who were accused of having instigated their countrymen to an assassination of the French soldiery. In a few days, a democratical municipality was installed ; the islands in the Adriatic were subdued by the navy which had hitherto protected them ; and the members of the government, finding neither commiseration

nor respect from the people, were happy in being allowed to retire from their native country. In Genoa, also, the nobles were friendly to the Austrian cause, but the people were attached to the French interests, and desirous of a popular government. Buonaparte, in consequence, soon after the revolution of Venice, established a democratical government in Genoa; but as the nobles had never shown an active hostility, and made no material resistance to the change, they escaped exactions.

The negotiation between the French republic and the emperor proceeded, and on the 17th of October, the definitive treaty was signed on the part of the two governments, at Campio Formio, near Udina, the principle of compensations being admitted as that by which the stronger powers were to make up their quarrels at the expence of the weaker. By this treaty, the emperor renounced all right and title to the Austrian Netherlands; and consented that the French republic should possess in full sovereignty the *ci-devant* Venetian islands of the Levant, *viz.* Corfu, Zante, Cephalonia, and the other islands dependent thereon, together with their settlements in Albania. The French republic consented that the emperor should possess, in full sovereignty, Istria, Dalmatia, the Venetian islands in the Adriatic, the mouths of the Cataro, the city of Venice, the Venetian canals, and the countries lying between the hereditary states and the Adriatic seas; the emperor acknowledging the Cisalpine republic, founded on the union of the Cispadane and Transpadane commonwealths, as an independent power, which republic composed the *ci-devant* Austrian Lombardy, the Bergamesque, the Brescian, the Cremonesque, the Venetian states to the east and south of the Legner, the Modenese, the principalities



of Massa and Carara, and the three legations of Bologna, Ferrara, and Romagna. This treaty, which was concluded with the emperor only as king of Hungary and Bohemia, the pacification of the empire with the French republic being referred to a congress, to be held at Rastadt, was immediately promulgated, but fourteen secret articles, highly important in their nature, were for a time concealed. By one of these it was agreed, on the part of the emperor, to use his influence that the French republic should, by the peace to be concluded with the German empire, retain as its boundary the bank of the Rhine, from the confines of Switzerland, below Basle, to the branching of the Nette, above Andernach, including the head of the bridge of Mannheim, the town and fortress of Mentz, and both banks of the Nette, from whence that river falls into the Rhine, to its source near Bruch. His imperial majesty also agreed to use his good offices to obtain for France the free navigation of the Rhine, the Moselle, and the Meuse; while on the other hand the republic was to endeavour to acquire for the house of Austria, the Archbishopric of Salzburg, and part of the circle of Bavaria. On the injustice of the contracting parties, in combining to appropriate to themselves the territories of independent states, over which they possessed no other right or power than that which always appertains to the strongest, no censure can be too severe.

Whilst Spain, Italy, and Holland, were held in dependance by France, whose victorious armies compelled Austria, the last continental member of the coalition, to accept of peace, its domestic tranquillity was shaken by frequent storms. Soon after the appointment of the directory, the two councils coalesced

for a time with the terrorists, in order to crush their mutual enemies, the men of moderate principles; but the success of this plan was defeated by the still greater enmity which subsisted between those terrorists who adhered to Robespierre to the last, and those who brought him to the scaffold. After the conspiracy of May 1796, the directors were more circumspect in their conduct and language; and no difference occurred between them and the councils, till the new election, which took place in the spring of 1797, when, notwithstanding all the arts of intrigue which were exerted by the directory, and all the manœuvres of the Jacobins, nearly the whole of the new deputies were adverse to the present system; most of them were men of anti-revolutionary principles, and among them were some royalists, and even more than one emigrant. At length the time came for one of the directors also to go out, by lot; and, by dint of management, it was contrived that the lot should fall upon Letourneur, one of the weakest characters amongst them. He accordingly received a large sum of money, was appointed to the post of ambassador, and Barthelemi was chosen to succeed him in the directory. From this time, there was a majority in the two councils opposed to the directory, and, during the summer of 1797, a regular warfare was carried on between them, in messages and in speeches. The majority of the nation sided with the councils, and, if their energy had been equal to the goodness of their cause, there could have been little doubt that they would have succeeded in their efforts, to give a better constitution to France, and peace to Europe; their opponents, however, were better versed in the revolutionary tactics, more conversant with the maxims of the Robespierrean school, and less scru-

pulous about the means of accomplishing their end. The directory, too, were masters of the army, and of the whole executive power of the state. Conscious of their majority, the enemies of the directory made no secret of their designs; but with a degree of weakness not easily to be accounted for, considering that they must have had a perfect knowledge of the characters and dispositions of the men who were opposed to them, they lost their time in petty disputes, and in subjecting the directory to trifling mortifications; whereas, if they had either waited quietly till the period of another election, when they might, without difficulty, have secured a majority in the directory, or had struck some decisive blow before the directors were thoroughly prepared for resistance, their triumph had been certain and complete. Although the directory had solemnly declared, that they could not, on any consideration, infringe any one article of the constitutional code, when called upon to give up a portion of the conquests which they had made, in order to restore peace to Europe, yet, when their object was to crush their personal enemies, they did not scruple at its violation. One article expressly prohibited the army from deliberating on any subject whatever, but on the present occasion, in consequence of applications from the directory, who had connived at all their plunder and extortion, they loudly declared themselves in their favour: Buonaparte made all the divisions of the army of Italy present petitions, of a threatening nature, against the councils: Moreau and Hoche did the same with their armies on the Rhine, and the latter was pitched upon by the directory, to command a body of troops, which they had ordered to Paris to destroy their enemies in the councils. By another article of the

constitution, the approach of troops to within a certain distance from the place at which the legislative body held its sittings, was expressly forbidden, but this and every other article were disregarded by the directory, when they had any favourite object to accomplish. Hoche, however, alarmed at the state in which he found the public mind, on his approach to the capital, was induced to decline the commission; and Augereau, who was originally a private soldier, in the Neapolitan army, but now a favourite general with Buonaparte, was employed in his stead. Augereau had no sooner taken the command of the troops, than he moved forward, and passed the limit prescribed by the constitution, but his impetuosity outstripped the wishes of the directory, who were not yet prepared to inflict the meditated blow; and, had the councils acted with firmness and decision, and passed a decree of accusation against the triumvirate, they might still have succeeded; they wasted that time, however, which should have been employed in action, in frivolous debates, and fruitless discussions; and, while they were engaged in the silly expedient of ascertaining, with precision, whether the troops had really passed the constitutional limit, the hall in which they sat was suddenly surrounded, and most of the chiefs of the party in opposition to the directory, together with the new director, Barthelemi, were arrested without the smallest resistance or difficulty, and, being placed in carriages, resembling iron cages, previously prepared for the purpose, were sent to Rochfort, where a frigate waited to transport them to the pestilential deserts of Guiana. The remains of the two councils, who no longer constituted a legitimate body of representatives, and who were not competent to perform any one act of legislation, now

assembled at the Odeon, and conferred on the directory, by a formal decision, that absolute power which they had usurped, in breach of the constitution. The immediate consequence of this event was, the triumph of jacobinism, and the re-establishment of a revolutionary government.

On the 18th of May, the Princess Royal of England, Charlotte Augusta Matilda, eldest daughter of the Sovereign, was married to Frederic William, hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg, on which occasion a portion of 80,000*l.* was voted by Parliament for the royal bride: on the 8th of July, Mr. Burke, whose talents as a political writer and parliamentary orator were of the first order, died at his seat at Beaconsfield, in the 68th year of his age: and on the 10th of November also died, after a reign of eleven years, Frederic William the Second, King of Prussia, in the 54th year of his age. He was succeeded by his son, Frederic William the Third, who, on his accession, adopted such measures of justice and prudence, as inspired confidence in his subjects, and augured a happy reign.

## CHAPTER XXII.

IN the interval between the treaty of Leoben, and that of Campo Formio, the British ministry, finding that the coalition against France was effectually dissolved, and that Great Britain was left absolutely alone in her contest with a power which had been acquiring allies in proportion as she had lost them, again declared themselves actuated by a wish for peace. Accordingly, on the 1st of June, an official note from Lord Grenville to M. de la Croix, the

French minister for foreign affairs, communicated the desire on the part of the British government to negotiate preliminaries, which might be definitively arranged at a future congress. The French government, pursuing their usual policy of negotiating a separate peace with each of their enemies, replied, that the directory would receive with eagerness the overtures and proposals which should be made to it by the court of England, but required, for the purpose of avoiding delay, that the negotiations should be rather for a definitive, than for a preliminary treaty. The British government rejoined, that it would depend upon the progress and turn of the negotiations, whether preliminary or definitive articles should be signed. The directory, in three days after the date of Lord Grenville's last note, transmitted the necessary passports for a minister, furnished with full powers from his Britannic Majesty, for the purpose of negotiating, concluding, and signing a definitive and separate treaty of peace; and fixed upon the city of Lisle as the place of meeting for the respective plenipotentiaries. On the 17th of June, Lord Grenville, in a letter addressed to M. de la Croix, informed him that his Majesty had made choice of the same minister to represent him on this, as on a former similar occasion; to which the French minister, in reply, signified the consent of the directory, that the negotiations should be opened with Lord Malmsbury, intimating, however, that another choice would have appeared to the directory more favourable for the speedy conclusion of peace. On his arrival at Lisle, his lordship was met by the French plenipotentiaries, Letourneur, late member of the directorial council, Pleville le Pelley, and Hugues B. Maret, when he opened the business by submitting the plan of pacifi-

cation, which he had received from the British ministry: this *projet* required the cession of the colony of Trinidad, on the part of Spain; and of the Cape of Good Hope, Cochin, in the East Indies, and the Dutch possessions in Ceylon, on the part of Holland; in return for which, it was proposed, that Great Britain should cede all the other settlements taken from France and her allies in the course of the war: our minister further required the restoration of his personal property to the Prince of Orange, or an equivalent in money; and that France should engage to procure for him, at the restoration of peace, an indemnity for the loss of the United Provinces; that Portugal should be included in the treaty, and that no demand should be made upon that country by France.

To these proposals the French answered, that, previously to entering on the main business, it was necessary that three concessions should be made: first, that his Britannic Majesty should resign the title of King of France; secondly, that the ships taken and destroyed at Toulon should be restored, or restitution made for them; and thirdly, that any mortgage which England might have upon the Low Countries, in consequence of the money lent to the Emperor of Germany, for the purpose of carrying on the war against France, should be given up. On the first of these points, Lord Malmsbury observed, that on all former occasions a separate article had been agreed to, which appeared to answer every purpose they required, and which it was his intention, as the treaty advanced, to have proposed as proper to make a part of this: on the second, he replied, that the claim of restoring the ships was so perfectly unlooked for, that it was impossible for him to have been provided

for it in his instructions : and on the third, that if the French republic had taken the Low Countries as they stood, charged with all their incumbrances, there could be no doubt what these words meant, and that if no exception was stated in the first instance, none could be made with a retro-active effect. These were the observations that occurred to him on the first mention of the subjects to which they had adverted, but he would transmit a paper stating the three claims to his government for consideration. On the 15th of July, the French plénipotentiaires addressed a note to Lord Malmsbury, in which it was stated, that the French government, unable to detach itself from the engagements which it had contracted with its allies, Spain and the Batavian republic, established, as an indispensable preliminary of the negociation for the peace with England, the consent of his Britannic Majesty to the restitution of all the possessions which he occupied, not only from the French republic, but further and formally, of those of Spain and the Batavian republic. Lord Malmsbury replied, that the requisition of these terms was, in effect, to declare the intention of France to put an abrupt termination to the treaty, as it proposed cessions on one side, without any compensation on the other : if this were the resolution of the directory, the negociation was at an end ; and it only remained for Great Britain to persevere in maintaining, with an energy and spirit proportioned to the exigency, a war that could not be ended but by yielding to terms at once disgraceful and unjust.

The French plenipotentiaires, feeling the justice of these observations, expressed a willingness to apply to the directory for fresh instructions : ~~but, though this~~



ference held between the plenipotentiaries on the 28th of August, it was admitted that no specific instructions had arrived. It was at the same time announced, that the delay of communication arose from the dissatisfaction of the Batavian republic, at the suggestion of their settlements being retained by Great Britain. It was however notorious to all Europe, that the members of the directory were at this period tottering in their seats; and that, during the delay of the negotiation, their attentions were confined to their own preservation. During this crisis, another revolution, as has already been related, took place in France, which expelled two of its members, Barthelemi and Carnot, from the office of directors. These events led to the recal of the French ambassadors, then at Lisle, and to the appointment of citizens Treilhard and Bonneir d'Alco, as their successors, a change not more unpleasant to the feelings of Lord Malmsbury, than inauspicious to the progress of the negotiation. Immediately after their first interview, on the 13th of September, Lord Malmsbury was required to inform them, whether, as a preliminary to negotiation, he was empowered to concede, on the part of his government, that England should surrender all the possessions she had gained from France, and her allies, since the beginning of the war: and his lordship was further required to return an explicit answer to this question in the course of the same day. On the 16th, his lordship addressed a note to the French plenipotentiaries, in which he intimated, that he neither could nor ought to treat upon any other principle than that of reciprocal compensation, a principle which had been formally recognised as a basis equally just, honourable, and advantageous to the two powers. On the same day the French ministers apprized his lordship of a decree

of the executive directory, purporting, that in case Lord Malmsbury should declare himself not to have the necessary powers for agreeing to all the restitutions, which the laws and the treaties which bind the French republic make indispensable, he shall return in four and twenty hours to his court, to ask for sufficient powers. The obvious answer to this imperious mandate was returned by his lordship at 8 o'clock in the evening of the same day, in a note demanding the necessary passports for himself and his suite, to return to England within the time prescribed by the directory. Previously to his departure, however, another meeting took place between the plenipotentiaries, in which his lordship urged every consideration that might induce the French ministers to recal their late unwarrantable proposals, but without effect; he therefore took his departure from Lisle on the morning of the 18th of September.

Parliament met on the 2d of November, and his Majesty expressed his firm conviction, that the papers laid before the two Houses would prove to them, and to the world, that in the late negotiations at Lisle every step had been taken on his part which could tend to accelerate the conclusion of peace; and that he still retained an ardent desire for the attainment of that blessing. When the King's speech came to be taken into consideration by the Commons, the House presented an extraordinary appearance; the benches on the left of the Speaker's chair no longer exhibited their usual occupants. Finding their counsels rejected, and their opposition unavailing, the opponents of ministers, with some few exceptions, had determined to withdraw for a time from their places in Parliament, and to leave the members of administration to pursue their own system of policy.

without control, alleging that they were wearied with attending merely to be outvoted and reproached by the ministerial hirelings, as enemies of their country. Under these circumstances, the address on the King's speech was voted in both Houses without a division.

On the consideration of the papers relating to the negotiation, an address passed both Houses by an almost unanimous vote, highly applauding the conduct of his Majesty's government, and expressing a firm determination to support his Majesty to the utmost, and to stand or fall with our religion, laws, and liberties. It was considered by the nation at large that the concessions offered by England at Lisle, were as great as it was proper to make, and that the claims of France were highly unreasonable and unjust; a great portion of the people consequently evinced a renewal of ardour in the prosecution of the war, and the secession of the opposition from Parliament being disapproved of by many, the ministry acquired some increase of popularity.

A bill was introduced, early in the present session, and speedily passed into a law, for continuing the existing restrictions on cash payments by the Bank of England; and on the 22d of November, Mr. Pitt brought forward his annual statement, relating to the public finances. The whole expense of the year amounted to 25,500,000*l.* and for the purpose of furnishing a supply equal to this immense demand, Mr. Pitt declared it to be his intention to have recourse to a perfectly new and solid system of finance. Of this sum, 6,500,000*l.* would arise from the unappropriated produce of the sinking fund, exchequer bills, and unmortgaged taxes. Of the 19,000,000*l.* then remaining to be provided for, he proposed to

raise seven within the year, by a new impost, under the designation of a triple assessment, which should be regulated by the existing assessed taxes, in a triplicate proportion to their actual amount, limited however to the tenth of each person's income; and from the application of this principle of taxation arose, at subsequent periods, the income and property taxes. Of the remaining 12,000,000*l.* four might be borrowed without creating an additional debt, the produce of the sinking fund, old and new, appropriated to the purpose of liquidating the national debt, being equal to that amount: the remaining 8,000,000*l.* he proposed to pay by continuing the triple assessment till the principal and interest were discharged, which would be the operation of little more than another year. This plan, he said, would greatly damp the hopes of the enemy, and show to him, and to all Europe, that our national resources rose in proportion to the exigencies of our situation. He acquiesced in what had been so often said, that it would have been fortunate if the practice of funding had never been introduced, and affirmed that the period had arrived when an absolute necessity existed for some change of system. Mr. Fox, at the request of his constituents, now again appeared in Parliament, and made the severest animadversions on the new scheme of finance, which was also opposed by Mr. Tierney, who had been recently elected for Southwark, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Curwen, and others. After a number of animated debates, the triple assessment bill passed the House of Commons on the 4th of January, 1798, when the opposition divided 127 against 202. In the Lords it was also carried, after considerable opposition from the Duke of Bedford, and Lord Holland, nephew of Mr. Fox, who made his first appearance as

a public speaker on this occasion, and displayed considerable talent. During the progress of this bill through Parliament, a clause was introduced, on the motion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, to admit of voluntary contributions towards the general defence of the country, now menaced with invasion by a powerful and enraged enemy ; and the sum thus raised, under the sanction of Parliament, amounted to 1,500,000*l.* to which the Bank of England contributed 200,000*l.* the King 20,000*l.* and the Queen 5,000*l.* out of their private purses.

The next financial measure submitted to Parliament, the redemption of the land tax, was brought forward on the 2d of April. The revenue at that time derived from the tax amounted to 2,000,000*l.* sterling ; this Mr. Pitt proposed to sell at twenty years' purchase, when the three *per cent.* consols were at fifty, subject to a rise in the price to purchasers, according to the rise of stocks. Forty millions sterling, the present amount of the land-tax at twenty years' purchase, would amount to 80,000,000*l.* three *per cent.* stock, affording an interest of 2,400,000*l.* and leaving, by this operation, a clear annual gain to the public revenue of 400,000*l.* The person who purchased his share of the land-tax would obtain a landed security of his property, and that at a rate so favourable as to render it a very desirable object. What was of much more consequence to the interests of the state, 80,000,000*l.* of capital would be taken out of the market. As to the terms that would be given, they should, Mr. Pitt observed, be such as would induce every person who was able to become a purchaser. The proprietor was of course to have the right of pre-emption ; and, to simplify the operation, the purchase was to be made

in stock, not in money. The bill further provided, that if the owner of the land should not be able to make the purchase within a time to be limited, a further period should be allowed. In the absence of the leading members of opposition, this bill passed into a law, without encountering any considerable difficulties; but, from the radical defects of the plan, not more than about one-fourth part of the land-tax was, within the space of the three succeeding years, bought up, and the advantage to the public, in point of revenue, did not within that period exceed 50,000*l.* a year. At the same time that the land-tax at four shillings in the pound was made perpetual, certain duties to the amount of that tax, on sugar and tobacco, were rendered annual, in order that the control which Parliament previously possessed over the public purse might suffer no diminution.

Though a message had, early in the session, been sent to the two Houses, stating the preparations making by the enemy for the invasion of these kingdoms, and soliciting the attention of Parliament to the subject, some time elapsed before any regular plan could be matured for the national defence. Mr. Dundas at length moved for the introduction of a bill, to enable his Majesty to call out a portion of the supplementary militia; and, after an interval of some weeks, a second bill was introduced, for the encouragement of voluntary associations in defence of the country. This call was promptly obeyed; and no period in the history of Great Britain was ever distinguished by more striking manifestations of patriotic feeling and military ardour. A third bill was brought into the House by Mr. Dundas, for the revival of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, which, when a rebellion was impending in one kingdom, and another was held in daily ex-

pectation of an invasion, could not with propriety experience any opposition. The alien bill, for removing all suspicious foreigners out of the realm, was also renewed, and on the 25th of May, Mr. Pitt, convinced that the dangers of the country were continually increasing, from the vast preparations accumulating on the coast of France, moved for a bill for more effectually manning the navy. The chief object he had in view was the temporary suspension of the protections of seamen, and he expressed an earnest wish, that the bill should pass that day through its different stages, with a suitable pause at each if required, and that it should be sent to the Lords for their concurrence. Mr. Tierney expressed his belief that the augmentation of the navy might be provided for in the usual way. The very extraordinary manner in which the House was called upon to adopt this measure could not fail, he said, to create great and unnecessary alarm; and, indeed, from all he had lately seen, he must view the measures of ministers as hostile to the liberty of the subject. Mr. Pitt rose with considerable warmth, and said, that if every measure adopted against the designs of France was to be considered as hostile to the liberties of this country, his idea of liberty differed widely from that of the honourable gentleman. As a notice of the intended measure would enable those on whom it was meant to operate to elude its effects, how, he asked, could the honourable gentleman's opposition be accounted for, but from a desire to obstruct the defence of the country. Mr. Tierney then rose, and called him to order; on which the Speaker observed, that whatever had a tendency to throw suspicion on the sentiments of a member, if conveyed in a language that clearly marked that intention, was certainly irregular; of

this the House would judge from the right honourable gentleman's explanation. Mr. Pitt said, that if the House waited for his explanation, he feared it would wait a long time : He knew very well that it was not Parliamentary to state the motives that actuated the opinions of members ; but it was impossible to go into arguments in favour of a question, without sometimes hinting at the motives that induced an opposition. He submitted to the judgment of the House, the propriety of what he had urged, but he would not depart from any thing he had advanced by either retraction or explanation. Mr. Tierney immediately left the House, and the next morning sent Mr. Pitt a challenge. On Sunday afternoon, the 27th, at three o'clock, the parties met on Putney-Heath, when two cases of pistols being discharged without effect, Mr. Pitt firing his second pistol in the air, the seconds interfered, and the matter was accommodated.

In this year, as in the preceding, the Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself obliged to lay before the House a second estimate of supplies, when he took occasion to state, that the loan must be 15 instead of 12,000,000*l.* ; and that the triple assessment, which was calculated at 7,000,000*l.*, would, it was apprehended, from the numerous modifications and abatements, be reduced to 4,500,000*l.* The interest of the increased loan and deficiencies he estimated at 763,000*l.* which he proposed to provide for by additional duties on salt, tea, dogs, horses and carriages, and by a tax on armorial bearings. The various duties on houses and windows were, at the same time, consolidated into one table.

Mr. Wilberforce's annual motion for the abolition of the slave trade was this session seconded by Mr. Pitt, and negatived by only four voices. A better



fortune, however, attended a Bill for regulating the shipping and carrying of slaves in British vessels from Africa, which passed by a great majority. A motion by the Duke of Bedford for an address to the throne, stating the urgent necessity of a change in the ministry, was negatived, after a long and vehement debate, by a majority of 100.

In an early period of the session, Earl Moira called the attention of the Lords to the state of Ireland, and entreated the House to take into consideration the tendency of the oppressive and cruel system now practised with the authority of government, which, instead of removing discontents, had increased the number of the discontented, and would, he feared, if the system were not changed, ultimately separate Ireland from this country for ever. His lordship's motion, to this effect, was opposed by Lord Grenville and the Lord-Chancellor, on the ground that the House was not in possession of any authentic information on the subject; and that, supposing the evils complained of really to exist, the power to redress them was not vested in the British, but in the Irish Parliament. The question of adjournment was consequently put and carried. On the 16th of March, Earl Moira again brought the general state of the affairs of Ireland under consideration, and stated, that he had the affidavits of a hundred persons in his possession, to prove that torture had been employed, in extorting confessions from individuals against themselves, and against their neighbours; and that horrible devastation had been made on the houses and property of persons accused of disaffection. The Marquis of Downshire replied, that zeal had carried the noble lord too far in his representations against the executive government. Some of the army might have

committed excesses, but he would contend that it was not in consequence of any orders they had received either from their officers or from government. With respect to coercion, he would not disguise that he was one of the first to recommend the proclamation for putting the county of Down under martial law. Earl Moira rose to reply, but he was called to order by the Earl of Caernarvon, and his lordship reluctantly suffered the conversation to drop, after observing that the documents he had referred to did not relate to any casual excesses of the troops.

On the 15th of June, Ireland being then in a state of actual rebellion, the Duke of Leinster, after an impressive speech, moved an address, humbly requesting that his Majesty would direct the proper officers to lay before that House a full and ample statement of the facts and circumstances which led to the disastrous affairs of Ireland, and of the measures which had hitherto been pursued for the purpose of averting such momentous evils. A long and animated debate ensued; but the motion was negatived, by 51 against 18. On the same day Lord G. Cavendish, in the House of Commons, introduced a series of resolutions, recommending a system of policy to be adopted towards Ireland, at once firm and conciliatory, and wherein severity should be tempered with mercy. These resolutions were seconded by Lord John Russell, but, on the motion of Mr. Canning for proceeding to the order of the day, were negatived by 212 to 66. Mr. Fox, in conformity with a notice previously given, then rose, and moved the following resolution, which was also negatived by a similar majority: "That this House, understanding it to be a matter of notoriety that the system of coercion has been enforced in Ireland with a rigour shocking to

humanity, and, particularly, that scourges and other tortures have been employed to extort confessions, is of opinion that an immediate stop should be put to practices so disgraceful to the British name, and that our hopes of restoring tranquillity to Ireland must arise from a change of system, as far as relates to the executive government, together with a removal from their stations of those persons by whose advice such atrocities have been perpetrated, and towards whom the people of Ireland can feel no sentiments but those of resentment and terror.

These discussions in both Houses of Parliament took place with closed doors, and the same system of secrecy was pursued on the 19th of June, when a message from the King informed both Houses that various regiments of militia had made a voluntary tender of their services, to be employed in aid of the regular and militia forces in Ireland, for the suppression of the rebellion unhappily existing in that country. In the Lords, an address, empowering his Majesty to accept the offer of such regiments as should be willing to serve in Ireland, was carried, after an animated debate, and in the other House Mr. Secretary Dundas observed, that as he was not aware of any objection that could reasonably be urged against the measure, he should content himself with moving the thanks of the House to his Majesty for his most gracious communication. An animated debate, however, ensued, in which it was argued, that if the militia force of this kingdom were sent to Ireland, the principle of the militia bill, as originally established, would be completely abandoned, and that the measure was a gross and flagrant violation of the constitution. Mr. Banks moved, as an amendment, that the House considered the proposition suggested in his Ma-

jesty's message as of the utmost consequence, and such as required further deliberation. Mr. Secretary Windham said, it had been suggested that the House ought to pause before it agreed to the address; but were they to pause while an actual rebellion existed in one corner of the empire, while the King's troops and rebels were fighting, and not to assist the former to bring the latter to a sense of duty? On a division of the House, there appeared for the address 118 against 47, and bills, founded upon the message, were afterwards passed, previously to the prorogation of Parliament on the 29th of June.

England being thus deprived of about 12,000 of its constitutional defenders, though still under the imminent apprehension of an invasion, a spirit of military ardour, equal to any exigency, at once seized and pervaded the whole kingdom; and all ranks and orders of men eagerly formed themselves into volunteer corps, commanded by officers of their own choice, acting under temporary commissions from the King.

Before the rebellion of Ireland broke out into a flame, it had been sometime evident that a dark and dangerous connexion was carrying on, between the Society of *United Irishmen* and the French government, having for its aim nothing less than the dissolution of the connexion between the two kingdoms. The Irish nation, never losing sight of their having once been independent, had been engaged in frequent attempts to throw off the British yoke, and the estates forfeited on the suppression of these insurrections were granted to English settlers, who, generally differing in religious principles, and engrossing political power, were always regarded by the native Irish as intruders and plunderers, from whence arose a jealousy and antipathy which time has not yet been able to eradi-

cate, although, after a series of years, the new settlers began to side with the natives, and to consider themselves as having one common interest in their country.

The British government, having seen the fatal effects of coercive measures in the case of America, had since adopted towards Ireland a much more liberal and enlightened system of policy. The penal statutes against the Roman Catholics were repealed; they held their land on the like terms with the Protestants; they enjoyed, in short, every right and franchise in common with the former, saving only the offices of state, and the privilege of sitting in Parliament. The Irish Catholics, deeming themselves injured by the restrictions which continued, instead of being favoured by the relief bestowed, desired a participation in the privileges that were still withheld, and the Protestants conceived that the admission of a sect so superior to their own in number, to an equality of immunities, would be eventually a surrender of their own acquisitions and possessions, as the Catholics, by outnumbering them in Parliament, might claim and recover the possessions of their ancestors, of which they very naturally deemed the Protestants usurpers. The lower classes of Catholics, ignorant and superstitious, and governed by their priests, were inflamed with the greatest rancour against the Protestants, whom they abhorred as heretics, and detested as interlopers. This jealousy on one side, and hatred on the other, were at their height when the French revolution astonished Europe, and elated the hopes of the reforming parties both in England and Ireland, who now thought that the dread of the people would operate so powerfully upon their rulers as to insure the fulfilment of their demands. The Society of *United Irishmen*, projected and organized by Wolfe Tone, proposed to connect the whole Irish

nation together, for the purpose of a general melioration of their condition, by a reform of Parliament, and an equalization of Catholic with Protestant privileges, without any exception, civil or political. The Protestants, persuaded that, whatever their real purpose might be, the ferment they were agitating must be inimical to the existing establishments, formed counter-associations, and assumed the name of *Orange-men*, in honour of King William, the vindicator of Protestant security, and the establisher of Protestant property and power in Ireland. The Orange-men proposing to disarm the Catholics, bodies of these associated to resist the attempt, and assumed the name of *defenders*, and various feuds took place, accompanied with great disorder and some bloodshed. The united Irishmen did not immediately amalgamate with the defenders, who were rather violently outrageous than systematically designing; in them, however, they saw willing instruments when their own deep laid schemes should be ripe for execution. Whether the designs of these associates were *originally* to effect a complete separation of Ireland from Britain has not been ascertained as a fact, but that in the progress of their concert they had formed such a project is beyond all doubt; and in justice to the Catholics it must be observed, that the conspirators were not exclusively of that community, reform and Catholic emancipation being used by the leaders of the malcontents, rather to entrap the unwary, than as the true object of those under whose banners the great mass of the disaffected were preparing to shed their blood.

So early as the year 1794, the French government had sent an agent, named Jackson, a clergyman of the established church of England, and a native of Ireland, into these kingdoms, to acquire intelligence; and he

at first took up his residence at the house of a British merchant, of the name of Stone, at Old-ford, near London; but, finding that the project of an invasion of England was hopeless, he repaired to Ireland, whence he carried on a correspondence with his friend, the English merchant. They were both, however, soon afterwards apprehended, and tried on a charge of high treason, when Stone was pronounced not guilty, but Jackson was convicted, and at the moment when sentence of death was about to be passed upon him, he fell down suddenly, and expired in the court. On this conviction, Tone, Hamilton Rowan, and some other distinguished members of the Society of United Irishmen, absconded to France; but soon after the departure of Earl Fitzwilliam from Ireland in 1795, that society received an important accession of men of talents and influence, among whom were Arthur O'Connor, late a member of the Irish Parliament; the nephew and presumptive heir of Lord Longueville; Dr. M'Nevin, chairman of the Catholic committee; Oliver Bond, an opulent Dublin merchant; and a barrister named Emmet. About the close of that year, a regular communication was opened by the leaders of the Society with the French Directory, through the medium of Tone and other Irish refugees; and early in the following year, a proposition was received from the French government, and accepted by the secret committee of the Society of United Irishmen, to send over an army to Ireland, to assist in the projected effort to subvert the monarchy, and to separate Ireland from the British connexion. The first agents of the insurgents demanded from France any number of troops, not more than 10 nor less than 5000; but the French showed a decided inclination to send an army sufficient to conquer and to retain possession

of the country—50 or 60,000 at least. Three armaments, one from Spain, a second from France, and a third from Holland, were destined to sail for the coast of Ireland in the same year, but the defeat of the Spanish fleet by Earl St. Vincent, and that of the Batavian fleet by Lord Duncan, entirely disconcerted this plan of invasion. These disasters by no means discouraged the insurgents, who had their expectations buoyed up by an assurance, on the part of the French Directory, that such succours as circumstances would admit should arrive in Ireland from France, in the month of April, or May, 1798. At the commencement of this year, a grand effort was resolved upon: in the month of February, a military commission was appointed by the executive council of the insurgents, and nocturnal assemblies were held in various parts of the kingdom, where the people were trained to the use of arms. At the same time, Arthur O'Connor, one of the pretended executive directory, repaired to London with an intention of proceeding to France, in company with Binns, a very active member of the London Corresponding Society, Coigley, an Irish priest, and two attendants of the names of Allen and Leary. Attempts had likewise been recently made, with some success, to form a society of United Englishmen, on the model of the United Irish, and Coigley and Binns were the chief promoters of this design, which also extended itself to Scotland.

Government having received accurate intelligence relative to the motions and designs of O'Connor and his associates, they were taken into custody at Margate, in the attempt to obtain a passage to France, on the 28th of February. After being confined some time in the Tower, they were removed to Maidstone, where they were tried by a special commission, on



the 21st and 22d of May, two days before the breaking out of the rebellion in Ireland; and Coigley, on whose person was found a paper, purporting to be an address "from the Secret Committee of England to the Executive Directory of France," was capitally convicted, and died with heroic fortitude, in what he considered the cause of his country. No evidence appearing against Allen and Leary, they were immediately set at liberty; but O'Connor and Binns were detained on another charge of high-treason, preferred against them by the British government. After the proclamation of many districts in the southern and midland counties, the imprisonment and transportation of several persons implicated in the conspiracy, and other acts of power, a very severe wound was inflicted, on the 12th of March, upon the union, by the arrest of the thirteen members composing the provincial committee of Leinster, with other principals of the conspiracy, at the house of Oliver Bond, in Dublin. This arrest was grounded on the information of Thomas Reynolds, a Roman Catholic gentleman, of Killea Castle, in the county of Kildare, who had associated with the conspirators, and was colonel of a regiment of United Irishmen, treasurer of the county in which he resided, and provincial delegate for Leinster. In these arrests were included the most active and efficient leaders of the union, Emmet, M'Niven, and Bond, being among the number.

At the same time, a warrant was issued against Lord Edward Fitzgerald, and 1000*l.* offered for his apprehension; but his lordship for some time eluded the vigilance of the police, and remained for several weeks concealed in the city of Dublin; at length, however, he was discovered, on the 19th of May, and after a hopeless effort to effect his escape, in which he

wounded Justice Swan dangerously, and Captain Ryan mortally ; he was himself so desperately shot in the shoulder, that, after languishing till the 3d of the following month, he died in extreme agony. This young nobleman, who was brother to the Duke of Leinster, and married to a French lady of the royal blood of the Capets, a daughter of the late Duke of Orleans, was eminently qualified for the excitement and direction of revolutionary commotions, being a man of daring courage, a most active spirit, considerable powers of mind, and of a family highly respected for its ancient greatness by the lower classes of the Irish : the loss of such a man to the insurgent cause, and at such a juncture, cannot be estimated. The vacancies created in the directorial and other departments, by these arrests, were supplied without difficulty, but with men much less fit for the arduous task of overturning a settled government. Among the members of the new directory were two brothers, barristers, of the name of Sheares, to whom Captain Armstrong, a government agent, found ready access, and, by a show of great zeal in the cause, obtained the confidence of the leaders, from whom he learned that a general rising must immediately take place ; that the impatience of the people since the criminal prosecutions could no longer be restrained ; and that it was become necessary to make a great and immediate national effort, without waiting for French succours. The plan proposed was to seize the camp of Loughlin's-town, the artillery at Chapelizod, and the castle of Dublin, all on the night of the 23d of May : and it was further determined, that a simultaneous rising should take place at Cork ; on the 21st, however, the two brothers, John and Henry Sheares, with some others of the principal conspira-

tors, were apprehended ; the city and county of Dublin were declared, by the Lord-Lieutenant and council, to be in a state of insurrection ; the guards at the castle, and at all the great objects of attack, were trebled ; and the whole city was, in fact, converted into a garrison. Amongst the precautions taken on this occasion by government, was the augmentation of the several corps of armed yeomanry, a species of force that was first embodied in the month of October, 1796, in a kind of independent companies. These yeomanry corps were each composed of about fifty men, mostly cavalry, with a much smaller body of infantry attached to them, and were generally commanded by a captain and two lieutenants ; the infantry being armed like a regular army, and the cavalry furnished with a pistol and sword each, to which sometimes a carbine was added. In six months from their first establishment, the numbers increased to 37,000 ; and during the rebellion the yeomanry force exceeded 50,000.

Of the means accumulated by the disaffected for carrying their revolutionary enterprises into effect, some estimate may be made from the following facts : a paper, in his own handwriting, was given by Lord Edward Fitzgerald to Mr. Reynolds, the informer, which purported to be a return made by a national committee meeting, held the 26th of February, 1798, and from which it appeared that the number of armed men in Ulster, Leinster, and Munster, amounted to 269,896, and that the sum of 1485*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* was in the hands of the treasurer. Another return made by a meeting of colonels, held on the 28th of March, 1798, reported, that their adherents, even among the King's troops, were in the proportion of one in every three, and that the insurgents were in sufficient force

to disarm all the military within the bounds of their own counties. That the armoury of the rebel force was at one time most extensive cannot be doubted, when it is stated, that the following number of arms was seized by the different general officers in the year 1797, in the provinces of Leinster and Ulster alone: 49,109 guns, 1756 bayonets, 4463 pistols, 4183 swords, 248 blunderbusses, 119 musket-barrels, 106 sword-blades, 22 pieces of ordnance, and 70,630 pikes, exclusive of many arms seized or surrendered, which are not included in this return. In the same year, 14,973 pikes were surrendered in the county of Kildare alone, in consequence of the pardon offered by government to the repentant; and, in Dublin, on the 11th of May, 1798, five pieces of cannon, and 500 pike-handles, were seized.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie having been appointed, on the 12th of December, 1797, commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland, his first step in the discharge of his public duty was to make a tour of observation throughout the island. The excesses committed by the military in the provinces called down severe reprehension, and on his return to the capital, he caused it to be notified in general orders, that the irregularities of the troops in Ireland had too unfortunately proved the army to be in a state of licentiousness, which must render it formidable to every one but the enemy. The General, after the publication of his general orders, and under the influence of the observations he had made in his recent view of the country, endeavoured to impress the minds of those in power with his own opinions, that coercive measures to the extent determined upon were by no means necessary in Ireland. But not having succeeded in producing the effect he intended by these representations, and un-

willing to tarnish his military fame, or to risk the loss of his humane and manly character, by leading troops to scenes of civil desolation, he resigned the chief command of the army in Ireland on the 29th of April, after holding that appointment little more than four months, and was succeeded by General Lake. In the month of March, orders were issued to the army by the Lord-Lieutenant, to proceed into the disturbed counties; and a manifesto, dated from head-quarters at Kildare, was on the 3d of the ensuing month addressed to the inhabitants, requiring them to surrender their arms in the space of ten days from the notice, on pain of large bodies of troops being distributed among them to live at free quarters; promising at the same time to reward such as would give information of concealed arms or ammunition, but denouncing exemplary severities if the country should continue in a disturbed state. On the advance of the military into the other counties, a similar notice was given to the inhabitants, and the troops in the county of Kildare, and part of those in the counties of Carlow and Wicklow, were quartered in the houses of the disaffected or suspected, in numbers proportioned to the supposed guilt and ability of the owners. Great numbers of houses with their furniture were burnt, where concealed arms were found, or whose occupants had been guilty of the fabrication of pikes, or other illegal practices for the promotion of the conspiracy. Many irregularities were of course committed by common soldiers, without the approbation or knowledge of their officers, and many other acts of severity by persons not in the army, some from an unfeigned zeal for the service of the crown, and others to promote sinister purposes, or to gratify a spirit of personal animosity.

It now became evident, that nothing short of one of

those tremendous convulsions, which shake states to their centre, could clear the political atmosphere of Ireland. The rebel chiefs had decided on open war, and the 23d of May was the day appointed for the general rising of the country.

Subsequently to the arrest of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the command of the rebel army devolved upon Samuel Neilson, who meditated an attack upon Newgate, in the city of Dublin, for the purpose of rescuing Lord Edward. With this view he assembled fifteen of the insurgent colonels on the night of the 22d of May, and having produced a map of the city, he assigned to each of them the post which they and their regiments were to occupy. The prison and the viceroyal residence were marked out as the first objects of attack, and the latter edifice was to be assailed in front and rear by different parties, while a select band was to ascend by ladders into the apartments of the principal members of government, and to secure their persons. Nor was it intended that the insurrection should be confined merely to the metropolis; the plan embraced the whole kingdom, and the signal for the general rising was to be the stoppage of the mail coaches. This part of the project was indeed carried into effect, for, on the 23d, the Belfast mail coach was detained and burnt at Santry, the Cork mail at Naas, and that travelling in the direction of Athlone, at Lucan; but the rebels, not satisfied with detaining the Limerick mail, barbarously murdered both the guard and coachman near the Curragh of Kildare. Early in the morning of the 23d, all the yeomen in the city, amounting to about 3500, and the few military in the garrison; were ordered by General Lake to repair to the respective alarm posts, while the Lord-Mayor placed the Cork militia, with two battalion guns, at the north side

of Stephen's Green. It fortunately happened, that the royal canal and the grand canal, each fifty feet broad, and twelve feet deep, formed a complete fortification on the north and south sides of the city, and all the bridges being occupied by military, the communication with the disaffected from without was in a considerable degree cut off.

This operation was not, however, carried into complete effect, as nearly 3000 men entered the city to the north, on the evening of the 23d, for the purpose of joining the insurgents. A large body of rebels, armed with pikes and muskets, assembled in Eccles-street, and its environs, as well as in various other parts of the city, and great numbers were advancing towards Dublin, with an intention of rushing into the city, as soon as the insurgents had carried the castle. At this crisis, Neilson, the rebel chief, was apprehended in the streets, by Mr. Greig, after a desperate struggle; and on their leader being committed to prison, several thousand rebels, who were waiting with impatience the signal of attack, dispersed in various directions. The plan of the rebels was, it appeared, to assemble by beat of drum; and it is well known, observes Sir Richard Musgrave, in his *Memoirs of the Rebellion*, that, in another hour, the fate of the city and its loyal inhabitants would have been decided; for the mass of the people, armed with pikes and other weapons, were lurking in lanes and by-places, ready to start forth on the first beat of their drums, and would have occupied all the streets, and assassinated the yeomen, before they could have reached their respective stations. On the night of the 23d, and during the following day, several skirmishes were fought in the counties adjoining the seat of government, and the towns of Naas, Clane, Prosperous, Ballymore, Eustace, and Kilcullen,

were attacked by the insurgent force ; and Carlow, Hacketstown, and Monasteveren, had to withstand similar assaults on the two following days. These feeble and unconnected efforts were not countenanced by a general rising ; for Ulster, in which province alone 150,000 United Irishmen are said to have been enrolled and mustered, declined the contest, in consequence of the unpromising state of their affairs ; and the progress of rebellion, unsanctioned even by the formality of a manifesto, had hitherto rather resembled the capricious freaks of a discontented mob, than the united efforts of a large portion of the nation. War being openly commenced by the conspirators, the Lord-Lieutenant issued a proclamation on the 24th, giving notice that orders were conveyed to all his Majesty's general officers in Ireland, to punish according to martial law, by death or otherwise, all persons aiding the rebellion, and the following day presented an opportunity for carrying into effect these heavy denunciations. On the 24th of May, an unusually large assemblage of the insurgents in the neighbourhood of Carlow, forty miles south-west of Dublin, indicated that an attack on that place had been decided upon, and on the day following the garrison, consisting of about 450 men, under Colonel Mahon, was assailed by a body of 1000 or 1500 insurgents. On their advance into the town, they received so destructive a fire from the garrison, that they recoiled, and endeavoured to retreat, but finding their flight intercepted, numbers took refuge in the houses, which being immediately fired by the soldiery, they met a miserable fate. The loss of the rebels, on this occasion, could not be estimated at less than 500, while not an individual on the side of the loyalists was even wounded ;



and, after the defeat, about 200 insurgents were hanged or shot.

While, by the successful operations of the loyalists, the communication was laid open between the various parts of the kingdom and the capital, which had for some days actually sustained a species of blockade, an insurrection burst out where it was least expected, and in a few days the county of Wexford was in a flame. On the night of the 26th of May, the standard of rebellion was hoisted between Gorey and Wexford, and Father John Murphy, a Romish priest, of Boulavogue, placed himself at the head of the insurgents, two large bodies of whom, both men and women, were collected on the following day, being Whit-Sunday, one on the hill of Oulart, the other on Kiltomas Hill, the latter of which, amounting to from 2 to 3000, and commanded by Michael Murphy, another Romish priest, were attacked by about 300 yeomen, who advanced intrepidly up the hill, when the rebel force, notwithstanding their superior numbers, retreated in disorder, leaving 150 of their companions dead on the field. The assailants, not satisfied with a victory so honourable to their skill and courage, tarnished the laurels of the day, by burning two Romish chapels, and about 100 cabins and farm-houses belonging to persons of that community, in their line of march. Very different from the battle of Kiltomas was the result of another action fought on the same day, on the hill of Oulart, and where Father John Murphy commanded in person. The insurgents, finding their retreat cut off, attacked their opponents with an impetuosity that overthrew all opposition, and so successful were their efforts, that a whole picked detachment of 110 men, from the North Cork militia, was slain, with the

exception of Colonel Foote and four of his men ; while the loss of the rebels was only three killed and six wounded. Father John, flushed with victory, advanced to Enniscorthy, and that place was attacked on the 28th by a rebel force amounting to 7000, of which about 800 were armed with muskets. Victory, which fluctuated for three hours, at length took her stand in the rebel ranks, and the military, having no cannon to support them, were driven to the necessity of sounding a retreat. The loss of the garrison, including volunteers, amounted to about 90, and of the rebels it is estimated that at least 300 fell.

The next movement of the insurgents was to Vinegar-hill, near Enniscorthy. While they halted at this place on the 29th, John Henry Colclough, of Battyteig, and Edward Fitzgerald, of Newpark, who, with Beauchamp Bagnel Harvey, of Bargycastle, had previously been committed by the loyalists to the prison at Wexford, on suspicion of having favoured the rebel cause, were dispatched with a commission to endeavour to prevail on them to disperse. This unpromising mission entirely failed ; and Colclough was ordered to return to Wexford, while Fitzgerald was detained. So prompt were the rebels in their movements, that before the evening of the same day, their advanced guard was pushed forward to Three Rocks, within three miles of Wexford, and that eminence fixed upon as one of their future military stations. On their approach the consternation of the inhabitants of Wexford became extreme ; suspicion haunted every bosom ; and as a measure of precaution, orders were issued to extinguish all the fires, even those of the bakers, and to unroof all the thatched houses in the town, to prevent the incendiary operations of the disaffected. In this extremity, multitudes repaired for

refuge on board the ships in the harbour ; the shops were all shut, and many of the affrighted inhabitants sought security in flight. The military force at this time in Wexford amounted, in the whole, to about 1200 men, whilst the rebels were at least 15,000. It was announced to the garrison, in the course of the evening, that General Fawcett was marching from the fort of Duncannon, and that his arrival with a strong reinforcement might be hourly expected. The general, having arrived in the night at Taghmon, pushed forward a detachment of eighty-eight men, including eighteen of the artillery with a howitzer, under the command of Captain Adams of the Meath militia ; but this detachment was unfortunately intercepted on the morning of the 30th, near the camp at Three Rocks, and after a sharp engagement, in which a majority of their number was killed, the survivors fell into the hands of the enemy. The general, who had halted at Taghmon, on receiving the account of this disaster, retreated precipitately towards Duncannon, with which the troops in Wexford were unacquainted for several hours ; and Colonel Maxwell, acting upon the supposition that the general would be able to take the rebels in the rear, while he attacked them in front, sallied forth from the town on the following morning, taking with him the principal part of the regular force at that time in the garrison ; but this operation proved altogether unsuccessful. On the return of the troops a council of war was hastily assembled, at which it was determined to evacuate the town, and Counsellor Richards and his brother were appointed to inform the insurgent chiefs that it would be surrendered into their hands, without further resistance, on condition that the persons and property of the inhabitants should be respected ; in the mean

time, the military, without apprizing the inhabitants of their intention, had commenced their retreat, taking the route for Duncannon fort; and the insurgents, after some further parley, poured into the town over the wooden bridge by thousands, shouting, and exhibiting every mark of extravagant exultation. Their first step was to proceed to the prison, whence they instantly liberated Mr. Harvey, and insisted that he should become their commander. The inhabitants, rendered hospitable by their fears, entertained them with great profusion, and every house in the town, not previously deserted, soon became decorated with green. After various scenes of disorder, naturally attendant on such an occasion, parties were dispatched in boats to bring on shore all the men, arms, and ammunition, they could find in the ships and other vessels in the harbour; and those who were recognised as having rendered themselves obnoxious to these sanguinary wretches, were pierced with pikes upon the beach.

The inhabitants of Wexford enjoyed a temporary repose on the night of the 30th, which passed in comparative tranquillity; but early on the morning of the 31st, the streets were again crowded, and the confusion and plunder of the preceding day recommenced. After much entreaty, the insurgent force was induced to move out of the town and encamp on Windmill-hills, where they divided into two bodies; there remained, however, a kind of rebel authority in the place, which assumed the office of supplying the camps, and issuing proclamations: the office of military commander was confided to Captain Keugh; and each of the wards had a company of guards, who performed the garrison duty of the place, and held a regular morning and evening parade.

By this time, the insurrection had become general throughout the country, except where the people were kept down by the presence of the military; all the forges, both in town and country, were in consequence continually employed in fabricating pike-blades; and timber of every description fit for handles was procured for that purpose. Four oyster smacks were fitted out in the harbour, and manned with 25 men each, to cruise off the bay, and to bring in vessels laden with provisions, to supply the markets, which were totally deserted by the farmers. All specie seemed to have vanished during the insurrection, and bank notes were held in such low estimation, that great quantities of them were destroyed in lighting tobacco-pipes, and in wadding for fire-locks. So much indeed was the value of paper money depreciated, and of specie advanced, that a pound of beef was regularly sold in the market of Wexford for one penny in cash, when a bank note of the nominal value of 20s. would not purchase the same weight of that commodity. Whilst the southern part of the county of Wexford was in this horrible state of commotion, the northern baronies towards Gorey were all frightfully agitated. On the morning of the 1st of June, the garrison of Bunclody, three miles from Enniscorthy, consisting of 500 men, was attacked by a detachment of rebels, from the camp at Vinegar-hill, amounting to about 5000, and commanded by Father Kern, a man of extraordinary stature, strength, and ferocity. After a sharp engagement, during which the loyalists were at one time obliged to quit the town, the assailants were at length defeated, with a loss of about 200 slain, while that of the victors amounted only to two privates. This victory was of no small importance, as a different result would

have opened a way for the Wexford rebels into the county of Carlow, the rising of whose inhabitants to co-operate with those of Wicklow and Kildare, already in arms, must have given great embarrassment to government.

Whilst one division of the Wexfordian army, under Father John Murphy, were prosecuting their victorious career in the north, the other, under Beauchamp Bagnel Harvey, advanced to the west for the purpose of attacking New Ross; but the capture of the town was an object of considerable difficulty, as the garrison, which was commanded by Major-general Johnson, consisted of 1200 effective men, exclusive of 150 yeomen, who had been for some time prepared for the attack, and were all judiciously stationed. About five o'clock in the morning of the 5th of June, 30,000 insurgents, about one-fourth armed with muskets, and the remainder with pikes, marched up to the place with great bravery, drove in the advanced guard, and took possession of the alarm post. The first onset was furious, but they were repulsed by a detachment of the fifth dragoons: they, however, instantly rallied, and notwithstanding cannon were planted at the cross lanes, so as to sweep the streets as they advanced, such were the weight and impetuosity of the column formed by the assailants, that the main body of the garrison fled over the bridge with great precipitation. The commanding officer, however, having re-animat-ed his men, contrived to turn the rear of the assailants, who were now dispersed and overcome; and as raw troops can never be rallied, they retreated with the utmost speed, after a contest of several hours, first to Corbet, and then to Carrickbyrne-hills. The slaughter of the rebels was prodigious: the King's troops lost about 90 men killed, among whom was Lord

Mountjoy, colonel of the Dublin militia, and the wounded and missing amounted to about 130. Enraged at this defeat, some dastardly rebels turned their fury against objects incapable of resistance, and more than 100 Protestant loyalists were wantonly and barbarously massacred in cold blood.

The army under Father Michael Murphy, about 20,000 strong, advanced against Arklow, on the 9th of June. The attack, which continued for upwards of two hours, was fierce and irregular; but the incessant fire of the troops rendered all their efforts abortive, and they were never able to penetrate into the place. At length Father Michael, after haranguing his followers, advanced with a standard on which a cross had been emblazoned, but though he had represented himself to be invulnerable, he was killed by a cannon shot, on which his troops instantly dispersed, and retreated, in a disorderly manner, towards Coolgrency. The insurgent army, now under the command of General Byrne, next meditated an attack on Hacketstown, but the approach of General Lake compelled them to abandon that design, and to commence their retreat, on the 20th, for Vinegar-hill. The army under General Needham moved from Arklow to Gorey on the 19th, and from thence towards Enniscorthy on the 20th, for the purpose of co-operating in a plan formed by General Lake, for surrounding the rebel station at Vinegar-hill. For this purpose, different armies moved at the same time from various quarters— that under Lieutenant-general Dundas, from Baltinglass; another under Majors-general Sir James Duff, and Loftus, from Tullow; that from Arklow, under General Needham, and a fourth from Ross, under Majors-general Johnson and Eustace. On the march of the army from Ross, the rebel bands

under Father Philip Roche, on Lacken-hill, fled in the utmost confusion, and separated into two bodies, one of which directed its march to Wexford, and the other to Vinegar-hill. This famous eminence, with the town of Enniscorthy at its foot, and the country for many miles in circumference, had been in the possession of the rebels ever since the 28th of May, during which period, continual apprehension of death had attended the hapless loyalists who had not succeeded in effecting their escape. The army commanded to march from different quarters to surround this post, consisted, in the whole, of about 13,000 effective men, with a formidable train of artillery, and with such a strength, judiciously directed, the whole insurgent army, estimated at 20,000, might have been taken or destroyed. The troops, being divided into four distinct columns, advanced, early in the morning of the 21st, against the insurgents, while a fifth, under General Johnson, having carried the town of Enniscorthy, scaled the heights in different directions; but notwithstanding these formidable preparations, the rebels were enabled, from the strength of their position, to defend the line during an hour and a half, and it was not till they were out-flanked, and nearly surrounded, that they gave way, leaving behind them thirteen light field-pieces. The slaughter was immense, for no quarter seems to have been given upon this occasion; and those who escaped the musket, when overtaken, perished by the bayonet; whilst the King's troops had not above 100 either killed or wounded. The action was less bloody than might have been supposed, as the troops under General Needham, being unable to reach the position assigned them, left an opening through which the rebels retreated, and which, from that circumstance, was lu-



dicrously called *Needham's gap*. Through this opening an immense column retreated by the east side of the Slaney, part of which entered Wexford; while another, and more numerous detachment, headed by the chiefs, Murphy and Roche, reached the Three Rocks, and having held a hasty council of war, marched across the mountains to the county of Kilkenny. Wexford was relieved on the same day as Enniscorthy, Brigadier-general Moore, whose troops had, on the preceding day, vanquished a rebel force of 5 or 6000 men at Goffs-bridge, near Hore-town, having, on the morning of the 21st, received a proposal from the inhabitants to surrender the town, and to return to their allegiance, provided he would guaranty their lives and property. This proposal General Moore felt it his duty to transmit to General Lake, and marching directly for Wexford, he stationed his army within a mile of that place, the loyalists of which, like those of Enniscorthy, had, since it fell into the hands of the insurgents, been in a state of incessant apprehension and suffering.

The Wexford insurgents, in the hope that their offer of surrender would be acceded to by General Lake, and conscious that it was impossible to oppose any effectual resistance to the overwhelming force brought against them, liberated Lord Kingsborough, who had been some time a prisoner, and on the 21st surrendered the town into his hands. Contrary to their hopes, General Lake insisted upon the unconditional surrender of the place, and in his answer to their proposal, informed the inhabitants, that no terms could be granted to rebels in arms against their sovereign. On the evacuation of the town by the main body of insurgents, part of them, under Fitzgerald, Perry, and Edward Roche, passed over the bridge to

the eastern side of the river Slaney, and the rest, under Father Philip Roche, in an opposite direction, into the barony of Forth.

The body of rebels which had retreated from Vinegar-hill, and penetrated into the county of Kilkenny by the Scullagh gap, which separates the counties of Carlow and Wexford, burnt the village of Killedmond, and proceeded to Goresbridge, under the command of Father John Murphy, of Boulavogue. Having advanced in column, they were opposed by Lieutenant Dixon, who in vain endeavoured to maintain his post against their overwhelming disparity of force; but their success was of short duration, for they were pursued by General Dunn and Sir Charles Asgill, and totally defeated, on the 26th of June, at Kilcommey-hill, with a loss of from 2 to 300 slain, and ten light pieces of cannon taken, with 700 horses, and all the rest of their plunder. Murphy, the commander-in-chief, who fled from the field of battle, was taken soon after, and being conducted to the head-quarters of General Sir James Duff, at Tullow, was hanged the same day, and his head placed on the market-house.

In the south, the spirit of rebellion was now happily approaching to its termination; and in the north, this revolutionary contest never exhibited a very formidable shape, for the disaffected Protestants in that quarter, shocked at the enormities perpetrated, and the intolerance displayed, and scandalized by the pretended miracles wrought by the blood-stained priests, Roche and Murphy, determined to resist the seduction. They indeed found means to keep possession of Antrim for a few days, though, on being attacked with cannon and musketry, on the 7th of June, they were driven out of the town, with the loss of about 200 slain, but not till Lord O'Neill, who

commanded a regiment of Irish militia, had been mortally wounded. They were also repulsed in an ill-concerted attack on Carrickfergus; and at Ballynahinch, where they had determined to make a stand with 6000 men, under Munroe, the northern chief, they received a total overthrow. On the subsiding of this minor rebellion in Ulster, another local rising took place in Munster, which being much inferior in vigour, was easily suppressed.

After the signal defeat of the rebels at Vinegar-hill, and their consequent expulsion from Enniscorthy, Wexford, &c. a considerable number dispersed, and returned to their usual occupations. The more desperate retired to the mountainous parts of Wexford and Wicklow counties, where, for a while, they waged a desultory warfare, but in the course of a few weeks were completely subdued; and those who still resisted might rather be considered as small companies of banditti, who lurked in the woods and mountains, and committed nocturnal depredations, than as an embodied force. At length the insurgent chiefs, Fitzgerald and Byrne, surrendered to Generals Dundas and Moore; and this sanguinary insurrection, which broke out on the 23d of May, and raged with intense fury till the 22d of the following month, was finally extinguished on the 12th of July.

Dublin, having escaped the horrors of insurrection, now became the theatre of public justice. The first person brought to trial was a rebel chief of the name of Bacon, in an extensive line of business in the metropolis, and of the Protestant persuasion. He was apprehended on the 2d of June, disguised as a female, and proceeding in a chaise to the country to join the insurgents. Being found guilty of high treason, he was executed on the 14th, on the same scaffold with

Lieutenant Esmond, a Roman Catholic, convicted of heading the rebel forces. Henry and John Sheares, the sons of a banker at Cork, and educated for the bar, were condemned on the clearest evidence, and executed in the front of Newgate. The trial of John M'Cann, secretary to the provincial committee of Leinster, followed on the 17th of July, and he suffered with Michael William Byrne, delegate for the county committee of Wicklow. Oliver Bond, a man of considerable fortune, and one of the principal conspirators, at whose house the Leinster delegates had been arrested on the 12th of March, was arraigned for high-treason on the 23d of July, and his trial continued till seven o'clock on the morning of the 24th, when he was convicted. These trials were all by jury; but in Wexford, and other parts of the country, the more summary tribunals of courts-martial were resorted to. On the 25th of June, Matthew Keugh, the rebel governor of Wexford; the Rev. Philip Roche, the general; and seven others, having been previously tried and convicted, were brought to the bridge at Wexford, and executed. Among the persons who suffered for high-treason on the same bridge, were Beauchamp Bagnel Harvey, John Henry Colclough, and Cornelius Grogan. The two former, who had quitted the rebel army soon after the battle of Ross, disgusted, as they declared, in their last moments, with the cruelties and oppression which had been exercised on those who fell into the hands of the rebellious mob, were discovered and taken in a cave on one of the Saltee Islands, or rather rocks, which lie in the entrance of Wexford harbour: Grogan, a penurious old gentleman, died possessed of an estate of 8000*l.* a year. In the town of Wexford alone,

not fewer than sixty-five persons were executed for the crimes of rebellion and murder.

The state of Ireland appearing to require a Lord-Lieutenant who could act in a military as well as civil capacity, the Marquis Cornwallis was appointed to succeed Earl Camden, and made his entrance into the capital on the 20th of June. He united conciliation with firmness; and whilst displaying a system of moderation and mercy to the infatuated rabble, did not fail to make example of those who had misled them. On the 3d of July, a proclamation from the new Viceroy appeared in the Dublin Gazette, authorizing his Majesty's generals to afford protection to such insurgents as, having been simply guilty of rebellion, should surrender their arms, abjure all unlawful engagements, and take the oath of allegiance. To give the full sanction of law to this measure, a message was delivered from his excellency to the Irish Parliament, on the 17th, on which was grounded an act of amnesty to all who, not being leaders, had not committed manslaughter, except in the heat of battle, and who should comply with the conditions of the proclamation. This act was followed by a treaty between the government and the chiefs of the United Irishmen, negotiated by Mr. Counsellor Dobbs, a member of the House of Commons, bearing date the 29th of July, and expressed in the following terms:—"That the undersigned state prisoners, in the three prisons of Newgate, Kilmainham, and Bridewell, engage to give every information in their power of the whole of the internal transactions of the United Irishmen; and that each of the prisoners shall give detailed information of every transaction that has passed between the United Irishmen and foreign states; but that the pri-

soners are not, by naming or describing, to implicate any person whatever; and that they are ready to emigrate to such country as shall be agreed on between them and government, and give security not to return to this country without the permission of government, and not to pass into an enemy's country, if, on so doing, they are to be freed from prosecution, and also Mr. Oliver Bond, (then under sentence of death) be permitted to take the benefit of this proposal. The state prisoners also hope, that the benefit of this proposal may be extended to such persons in custody as may choose to benefit by it."

Some of the rebel chiefs who had hitherto remained in arms, among whom was Aylmer, now surrendered their persons. Arthur O'Connor, Thomas Eddis Emmett, Dr. M'Nevin, Samuel Neilson, and other principals of the conspiracy, gave details on oath, in their examinations before the secret committees of the two Houses of Parliament, from which it appeared, that the rebellion originated in a system, formed, not with a view of obtaining either Catholic emancipation, or any reform compatible with the existence of the constitution, but for the purpose of subverting the government, separating Ireland from Great Britain, and forming a democratic republic; that the means resorted to for the attainment of these designs was a secret systematic combination, artfully linked and connected together, with a view of forming the mass of the lower ranks into a revolutionary force, acting in concert, and moving as one body; that for the further accomplishment of their object, the leaders of the conspiracy concluded an alliance with the French directory in 1796, by which it was stipulated, that an adequate force should be sent for the invasion of Ireland, as subsidiary to the preparations that were making for

a general insurrection; that, in pursuance of this design, measures were adopted by the chiefs of the conspiracy for giving to their societies a military form; that, for arming their adherents, they had recourse to the fabrication of pikes; that, from the vigorous and summary expedients resorted to by government, and the consequent exertions of the military, the leaders found themselves reduced to the alternative of immediate insurrection, or of being deprived of the means on which they relied for effecting their purpose; and that to this cause was to be attributed the premature breaking out of the rebellion, and probably its ultimate failure.

The principal prisoners, however, being found to abuse the lenity of government, by secretly labouring to revive the expiring flame of rebellion, were not liberated, but sent to Fort George, in the north of Scotland, where they continued in confinement till the conclusion of the war. They were then permitted to enjoy their liberty, on condition of withdrawing from his Majesty's dominions. Oliver Bond died, by a stroke of apoplexy, in prison.

Robberies and assassinations would probably have ceased on the granting of protections, if some desperate marauders, reinforced by deserters from several regiments of Irish militia, had not remained in arms in the mountains of Wicklow, and the dwarf woods of Killaughrim, near Enniscorthy. These banditti continued for many months to infest those parts of the country; but, after a little time, the woods, being scoured by the army, were cleared of their predatory inhabitants, who had ludicrously styled themselves *The Babes in the Wood*. The party in the Wicklow mountains continued, under two chiefs of the names of Holt and Hacket, to annoy the country

for a longer time, and in a more formidable degree.

Hitherto the French directory had contemplated the progress of the civil war in Ireland with tranquillity ; but when only the faint sparks of expiring rebellion could be perceived, and the arts of peace began once more to be cultivated, an expedition under General Humbert, consisting of 1030 privates, and 70 officers, embarked from Rochelle, in three frigates, and landing on the 22d of August, in the bay of Killala, in the county of Mayo, took up their head-quarters at the bishop's palace. Although a green flag was erected, accompanied by the emblem of a harp, encircled with the motto of *Erin go Bragh*, (Ireland for ever) but few of the peasantry could be prevailed on to join the invaders. Having left a small garrison under Colonel Charost at Killala, to keep up the communication, and receive supplies, General Humbert clothed and armed those who repaired to his standard, and immediately marched towards Castlebar, experiencing no obstacle in his route. The army collected there, under General Lake, commander-in-chief of the forces in Connaught, consisted of from 2 to 3000 regulars; and Humbert, relying chiefly for success on his own troops, contrived to post his new levies on the flanks, in such a manner as to protect his column from the fire of the enemy. The field of battle, to which he advanced on the morning of the 27th, consisted of a hill, at the north-west extremity of the town, where the English forces were drawn up in two lines, which crowned its summit; a small reserve was stationed in the rear, in a valley; and some guns, posted in front, commanded a rising ground, over which the enemy must necessarily pass. By an unfortunate precipitancy, the fire of the English lines,



instead of being reserved, was expended before it could be available—a mistake of which the enemy taking advantage, rushed forward with his main body, and the sharp-shooters evincing a design to penetrate into the rear, the detachment posted for the purpose of supporting the guns, abandoned their charge in a panic. The Earls of Ormond, Longford, and Grannard, endeavoured to rally their men, and so far succeeded as to impede the progress of the assailants, but they were pursued with alacrity, and the royal Irish artillery, who had gallantly defended the bridge by means of a single gun, were at length charged by the horse, and nearly cut off. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded exceeded 200, and that of the British was still more considerable.

Castlebar, a place of some importance, on account of its situation, now became the head-quarters of the invaders, and a number of deserters from the Irish militia regiments, chiefly actuated by the hopes of a booty, joined this force; but to the honour of the French commander, he acquired the odium of many of his new allies, by his scrupulous regard to the lives and property of individuals. The British force, after the defeat of Castlebar, retreated the same night to Tuam, a distance of thirty miles from the scene of action, whence they proceeded towards Athlone. Aware of the danger that might arise to the country from the presence of an invading army, Lord Cornwallis determined to take the field in person, and quitting Dublin on the 24th of August, arrived on the 28th at Athlone, where he received the unwelcome intelligence of the defeat of General Lake; and, ~~after~~ after a halt of two days, proceeded in the direction of Holly-mount, where he arrived on the 4th of September.

General Humbert, hoping to obtain succours, quitted Castlebar on the morning of the 4th, and, after a number of skirmishes, arrived on the 8th at Ballynamuck, so closely followed by General Lake, that his rear-guard was unable to break down the bridge at Ballintra. Lord Cornwallis, on finding that the invader had quitted Castlebar, repassed the Shannon at Carrick, and the French forces, being surrounded by a British army amounting to 20,000 men, surrendered after an ineffectual resistance. The rebel auxiliaries, now accumulated to about 1500, who had accompanied the French to this fatal field, being excluded from quarter, fled in all directions, and about 500 of their number were slain in the pursuit, exclusive of about 100 taken prisoners, among whom were found Teeling, Blake, and Roach, three of their chiefs. The number of French troops, who surrendered on this occasion, amounted to 96 officers, and 748 non-commissioned officers and privates; having sustained a loss of 288 since their first landing at Killala.

Previously to the march of General Humbert from Castlebar, on the 4th of September, he had called in all his forces, with the exception of three officers left at Killala, and one at Ballina, in command of the rebel garrisons at those places. At length, on the 22d of September, the King's forces arrived at Ballina, and obliged the garrison to retreat to Killala, where a large body of troops, under Major-general Trench, arrived on the following day, and a contest ensued, in which about 400 of the rebel forces were slain. The courts-martial assembled the day after the battle of Killala, and were not dissolved till they had disposed of 185 prisoners; among others General Bellew, of an ancient Irish family, who had served eighteen years in Germany, was found guilty of trea-

son and executed. The French officers taken at Killala were sent to Dublin, and thence to London, where three of their number, Charost, Boudet, and Ponson, were, on the favourable report of Dr. Stock, the Bishop of Killala, set at liberty, and sent home without exchange. In other parts of the country, also, a number of rebel chiefs and inferior insurgents were tried and executed; among whom were two Irishmen by birth, who had been in the military service of France before the invasion, and had come to Ireland in the French fleet. These ill-fated men, Matthew Tone and Bartholomew Teeling, taken prisoners at Ballynamuck, were tried at Dublin barracks, by a military tribunal, and found guilty of high-treason.

The little army landed at Killala had been intended, it appears, only as a van-guard to a much more formidable force, which was in a short time to follow; providentially, however, for the safety of the British empire, the French government had been as tardy in seconding the operations of Humbert, as they had been in sending succours to the support of the rebel force in the south of Ireland. The want of money is assigned as the cause of delay in the equipment of the second fleet, and, in the interim, before its appearance on the Irish coast, the *Anacreon* brig from France arrived at the little island of Rutland, from which were landed three boats full of men, and a number of officers, among whom was James Napper Tandy, one of the Irish emissaries to the French directory, and who had attained the rank of general of brigade in the French service. This brig was full of arms and accoutrements, and contained a park of artillery; but when the adventurers found that the people, instead of joining them, fled

to the mountains, and that the rebellion in Ireland was entirely suppressed, they re-embarked, after distributing a number of inflammatory papers, and steered again for the French coast. Some time afterwards, Napper Tandy, and two other Irish rebels, were apprehended by the agents of Great Britain, at **Hamburgh**, and conveyed to Ireland, where Tandy was indicted for high-treason, in the year 1801, when, having pleaded guilty, by previous arrangement, he was suffered to leave the kingdom, and take up his residence in France.

Another attempt of the French to revive a lost cause, was equally unsuccessful. A squadron from **Brest**, consisting of one ship of the line, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig, with a strong reinforcement, intended to co-operate with the force under **General Humbert** in Ireland, was fallen in with, on the 11th of October, off the north-western coast of that island, by **Sir John Borlase Warren**, who was cruising with seven sail of the line off **Lough Swilly**. The British admiral instantly threw out the signal for a general chase, and gave orders to form in succession as each ship of war reached her antagonist ; but it was found impossible to commence the action before the next morning, at which time it was discovered that the enemy's large ship had lost her main-topmast. Still confident in their own strength, the French squadron bore down and formed a line of battle in close order ; on which an action of three hours and forty minutes ensued, when the enemy's three-decker, the **Hoche**, and three of the frigates, hauled down their colours after a gallant resistance : five of the frigates, the schooner, and the brig, escaped, but three of the former were afterwards captured. The whole squadron, it appeared, was entirely new, and

full of troops, stores, and every other equipment for the support and establishment of the invading force in Ireland. Amongst the prisoners taken in the Hoche was Theobald Wolfe Tone, the projector of the society of United Irishmen, long considered as the most active and able negociator among the Irish fugitives at Paris, and as the great adviser of most of the measures pursued by his rebellious countrymen. He was no sooner landed in Ireland than he was conveyed to Dublin, and put upon his trial by a court-martial, before which he defended himself with considerable ability and firmness, not attempting either to deny or to palliate his offence. The plea on which he rested was that of being a denizen of France, and an officer in the service of the republic; but when he found that this defence was unavailing, he requested that he might die like a soldier, and not as a felon; and be shot, according to military usage, rather than hanged. The court, however, did not judge it proper to accede to his request, and the unhappy culprit attempted to escape the ignominy that awaited him by cutting his throat in the prison. The wound was at first supposed not to be mortal, but, after languishing a short time, it terminated his existence. Holt, the last and most intrepid of the rebel chiefs, was glad to obtain the boon of his forfeited life, by exiling himself for ever from his native country.

Thus ended the insurrection in Ireland, in which it is estimated that not less than 30,000 lives were sacrificed, and property was destroyed to an amount of which it is difficult to speak with accuracy; but some idea may be formed from the conflagrations that took place in the different towns, and from the compensation claimed by one class of sufferers. The towns of Carnew, Tinealy, Hacketstown, Donard,

Blessington, and Kiledmond, were all destroyed by fire ; in Ross, about 300 houses, mostly those of the labouring classes, were consumed ; the greater part of Enniscorthy was laid in ashes ; and in the open country a vast number of cabins, farm-houses, and gentlemen's seats were destroyed. By a message delivered to the House of Commons by Lord Castlereagh, on the 17th of July, it was proposed to afford compensation to the suffering loyalists, on their claims being duly verified before commissioners ; and an act of Parliament soon after passed, under which the claims of the loyalists alone amounted to upwards of 1,000,000*l.* sterling, a sum of great magnitude, but, it is supposed, not equal to more than one-third of the entire property destroyed by a rebellion, in support of which it is believed that 70,000 men were at one time in arms.

#### CHAPTER XXIII.

THE present year had been ushered in by the congress of Rastadt, in which it was proposed to discuss and settle all the disputes between the French republic and the German empire : the Emperor, as the head of the Germanic body, in his capacity of King of Hungary and Bohemia, had acceded to the demands of the Directory, to render the Rhine the boundary of the commonwealth, and surrender Ehrenbreitstein and Mentz ; and it was imagined that the system of sacrifices and indemnities might be speedily adjusted. However, whilst the French plenipotentiaries were giving the most solemn assurances that their government panted for tranquillity, a war was suddenly declared against Switzerland, which, after a peace

that had lasted for ages, was now condemned to experience all the horrors of hostility. Towards the end of the year 1797, certain menacing demands had been made by the French directory on the Swiss cantons, under some alleged pretexts of insults or injuries, and the government of Berne, in particular, was accused of having publicly enrolled emigrants, and given shelter to French deserters. The Helvetic diet, assembled at Arau, showed an intention of resistance by ordering a levy of 26,000 men, while the armed force of two cantons, under the command of Colonel de Weiss, was sent, on the 14th of January, 1798, into the Pays de Vaud, to suppress a popular tumult, which had for its object the establishment of a democratic government. As soon as the French executive learned that Berne and Friburg had dispatched a body of soldiers and a train of artillery into the Pays de Vaud, a division of French troops just returned from Italy was put in motion, and General Menard appeared upon the Genevan frontier. The Vaudois in the mean time adopted a democratical form of government, and assumed the appellation of the republic of Leman; the cantons of Basle, Zurich, and Soleure, followed their example; but the senates of Berne and Friburg persisted in maintaining their ancient form of government.

The management of the war being confided to the French General Brune, he entered the territories of Berne on the 25th of January, and published a proclamation, containing professions which appear to have been made only to be violated. Some unsuccessful attempts were made to obtain a truce, but a body of the invaders having advanced against the castle of Dornoch, seized that little fortress, while 13,000 troops summoned Soleure, which immediately

opened its gates. Friburg, better prepared for resistance, determined to oppose the French; but Brune, having advanced at the head of a column, took it by assault, and, on the 5th of March, after several well contested actions, the French army entered Berne. The ruling families were immediately displaced, the nature of the government was changed, the most respectable of the senators were sent into exile, and although the French professed to come in the character of protectors and deliverers, the treasures of the state were confiscated, and large military contributions exacted for the supply of the invading army. The Directory, determined on the subjugation of Switzerland, resolved to change the government from the federal into an united republic, which, by means of a close and intimate union with France, might be kept in continual dependance. The cantons of Berne, Zurich, Soleure, and Friburg, hoping to obtain an ascendancy in the government, hastened to carry into effect the wishes of the Directory by choosing a legislature, and Arau was pitched upon as the scene of its deliberations: but the smaller states of Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, Glaris, and Appenzel, attached to the government of their fathers, which had for ages guarantied their liberty, and secured their happiness, refused to send deputies to the new assembly, or to recognise its authority. Having appointed Paravicini their leader, they seized on Lucerne, and menaced Zurich; but finding it impossible to awaken the slumbering spirit of resistance among their countrymen, and by one great national effort to expel the invaders, they retired to the fortresses of their native mountains, and took post near the lake of Zug. The French, now commanded by General Schawenburg, immediately advanced in great force against them,



and commenced an attack. The leader of the confederates, perceiving that valour alone was unavailing against superior numbers, trained to the art of war, feigning to retreat, enticed the assailants into an ambuscade, and defeated them with great loss. A treaty ensued, in which, though it was agreed to accept the new constitution as a bond of general union, an express stipulation was entered into, that the internal government of the smaller cantons should continue as before, and they were at the same time exempted from all contribution; but in this arrangement Underwalden refused to acquiesce on any conditions whatever. The inhabitants of this canton, assembling their entire force, encountered a vastly superior body of French invaders on the 8th of September, and, after a most memorable battle, continued, with little intermission, to the evening of the 9th, during which clubs and spears were in vain opposed to muskets and bayonets, and fragments from the rocks to a regular artillery, the gallant mountaineers were overcome; the town of Standtz taken by assault; the houses in its beautiful valley destroyed by fire; the inhabitants nearly exterminated; and neither age nor sex spared by a furious soldiery. All Switzerland now subscribed to the new constitution; Lucerne was chosen as the seat of government, and an alliance, offensive and defensive, entered into between the French and Helvetic republics: the French directory, however, still continued to levy contributions and impose exactions to an enormous extent.

During the course of these events the seeds of a revolution were ripening at Rome, the same thirst of dominion prompting the French to erect the territories of the Pope into a commonwealth dependant on their power. On the 28th of December, 1797, a mob,

consisting of about 100 persons, assembled at the palace of the French ambassador, Joseph Buonaparte, and demanded the assistance of France, for the purpose of overthrowing what they termed the papal tyranny, and establishing a republic in its stead. The ambassador dispatched General Duphot to disperse the insurgents, and to prevail upon the papal troops to retire from the precincts of his court; but in the affray he was shot by a Roman fusileer, and Joseph Buonaparte retired into Tuscany. This outrage, for which every possible satisfaction was offered, afforded a pretext for sending General Berthier to Rome with a large body of troops; and on the 11th of February, 1798, the castle of St. Angelo, containing the Pope and the greater part of his cardinals, surrendered on the first summons. The inhabitants, encouraged by the presence of the French army, assembled in the Campo Vaccino, the ancient Roman Forum, planted the tree of liberty in the front of the capitol, proclaimed their independence, and instituted the Roman republic. All the splendour and magnificence of which the Catholic worship is susceptible, were employed to celebrate this memorable victory over the head of its faith; every church in Rome resounded with thanks to the Supreme Disposer of events, for the glorious revolution that had taken place; and while the dome of St. Peter's was illuminated without, fourteen cardinals, dressed in the gorgeous apparel appertaining to functions they were fated soon after to abdicate, presided at a solemn *Te Deum* within the walls of that superb temple. The deposed Pontiff was conveyed, by order of the Directory, first to Briançon, and afterwards to Valence, in France, where the infirmities of age and the pressure of misfortune terminated his existence, on the 29th of

August, 1799, in the 82d year of his age, and the 24th of his pontificate.

Of the generals employed by the *great* nation, as it emphatically called itself, Buonaparte had been the most uniformly successful, possessed the most commanding talents, and had acquired the largest share of popularity, and to him was confided the conduct of a vast and romantic attempt to effect the subversion of the British empire in the east, the first step towards which, the invasion and occupation of Egypt, he figured to himself as an easy task. The Directory, eager to find employment for armies which the plunder of Piedmont and Lombardy had sharpened rather than satiated, and by no means indisposed to the removal of a general, in whose presence all their power seemed to be eclipsed, consented to this project, although the Sublime Porte had kept its faith with the French republic inviolate; it being pretended that the purpose of the French was, by chastising the rebellious Beys, to act as friends and allies to the Grand Seignior, whose precarious but acknowledged sovereignty over Egypt yielded an annual tribute to his treasury, and supplied his capital with corn. The ports of Marseilles and Toulon were busied in refitting and launching ships, the fabrication of cordage, and the preparation of military stores; and while all Europe was contemplating the extent and destination of the armament, General Buonaparte, accompanied by a few of his chief officers, and a multitude of artists and men of learning, hastened from Paris to the borders of the Mediterranean.

His preparations being complete, he set sail from Toulon on the 20th of May, with a formidable veteran army, and an immense quantity of artillery and military stores, and leaving Sicily on the left, was joined

by a squadron of Venetian men of war, commanded by Rear-admiral Brueys, who had proceeded from Corfu nearly at the same time. To this officer, who had served with no higher rank than that of lieutenant of the royal navy, was intrusted the command of the fleet, and he now repaired on board the *Orient*, of 120 guns. This armament, consisting of about 300 sail, including ships of the line, frigates, and transports, descried Malta on the 9th of June, and at break of day the next morning, commenced a general landing of troops and artillery upon the coast, without encountering any very formidable opposition. At the dawn of the succeeding morning, the enemy had encircled the city of Valetta, and on the 12th the French entered the city, and became masters of the whole island, this almost impregnable place surrendering with so little resistance as to furnish reason to suspect a previous concert between the captors and the Knights. The Grand Master Hompesch, who had ranked as a sovereign prince, quitted the island, and received a sum of money at his departure, with an engagement for a pension from the French treasury, no part of which was ever paid. Thus Buonaparte contrived to obtain possession of the island of Malta, containing a population of 60,000 souls, and affording one of the most advantageous stations in the Mediterranean sea; while the ancient order of St. John of Jerusalem beheld itself bereaved of its territories, after possessing them nearly three centuries. Having appointed a provisional government, and intrusted the care of his new acquisition to General Vaubois, the fleet again put to sea, and in the evening of the 30th of June, anchored in the Roads of Alexandria.

As soon as the French admiral had cast anchor on

the coast of Egypt, Buonaparte hastened to disembark his troops, and to prepare for the attack of Alexandria; and on the 5th of July, this city, which in the sixth century sustained a siege of fourteen months, and inflicted a loss of 23,000 men upon the besiegers, was carried by assault in a few hours, with the loss only of one colonel, and seventy soldiers, killed and wounded. To strike terror into the inhabitants, and to preclude further resistance, a dreadful slaughter took place amongst the Mamelukes and the Arabs, after the city had surrendered. General Dessaix was now dispatched towards Cairo, and Buonaparte, in the mean time, issued orders for the fleet to shelter itself from the enemy in the old port of Alexandria; but on sounding the channel, it was found that there was not sufficient depth of water for the Orient, and the road of Aboukir was therefore chosen as the fittest anchorage. The military stores having all been disembarked, and the chief command conferred on General Kleber, a flotilla was established in the course of a few days on the Nile, and the city of Rosetta, situated at the mouth of the western arm of that river, was subdued. On the 7th of July, the main body of the army entered the desert, and, after experiencing the greatest privations, from heat and thirst, arrived at Dementour. Allowing themselves only one day's rest, they advanced to Miniet Salame, where intelligence was received that the Beys were encamped in the neighbourhood, and that an armed flotilla had descended the Nile on purpose to attack the invaders. Next morning, the Mamelukes, to the number of 4000, were discovered near the village of Chebriesse, situated on the left bank of the river. Here two separate actions immediately took place, the one on the water and the other on the land.

Buonaparte, having advanced to the support of Kleber, formed his army into five squares, with the cavalry and baggage in the centre. Impelled by their natural impetuosity, the Mamelukes commenced the attack, and were suffered to approach within the reach of grape-shot, when the cannon suddenly opened, and forced the main body of the assailants to retreat; but some, bolder than the rest, continued to advance, and met their fate either at the muzzle of the musket or the point of the bayonet.

Immediately on this defeat of the land forces, the village of Chebriesse was carried by assault, and the flotilla belonging to the Beys retired, after a desperate action, in which 600 were killed on the side of the vanquished, and only seventy on that of the victors. The French troops, pursuing their victorious career, advanced through the deserted villages to Ernbabé, where, on the 20th of July, they beheld, towards the left, those famous pyramids which had braved the storms of 3000 years, and in front about 6000 Mamelukes, Arabs, and Fellahs, intrenched in the plain. Buonaparte, after making the same dispositions as at Chebriesse, gave orders for a charge; and the Mamelukes, after an unsuccessful attempt to break their way through a rampart of bayonets, fell back in disorder, and left the field of battle in possession of the enemy. General Dugua, availing himself of the retreat of the native troops, advanced against the village, while two divisions under Generals Rampon and Marmont were detached towards the rear, and carried the intrenchments in the face of a masked battery of forty pieces of artillery. A body of Mamelukes and Fellahs, amounting to 1500, perceiving their retreat cut off by this movement, took post behind a ditch, where they defended themselves with great bravery,

but not a single man escaped the fury of the French soldiery, being all either killed by the sword, or drowned in the Nile. Murad Bey, who commanded on this occasion, being forced to retreat, left behind him 400 camels, his artillery, baggage, and provisions ; and the victors, who seized on many fine Arabian horses, superbly caparisoned, found all the purses of the vanquished Mamelukes well stored with gold. This decisive victory, obtained with the loss of ten men killed, and about thirty wounded, opened the gates of Cairo to the invaders: the chief inhabitants, hastening to the camp of Buonaparte, solicited his protection ; while the fortunate chieftain seized on this opportunity to visit the pyramids, and prophesied that his exploits would not be forgotten at the end of forty centuries.

Having conciliated the confidence of the sheiks and the principal families, by proclamations in which he distinctly professed himself a Mahometan, asserting that he revered more than the Mamelukes themselves, God, his prophet Mahomet, and the Koran, and having organized a provisional government, Buonaparte marched against Murad Bey, whom he forced to take refuge in Upper Egypt, while Ibrahim Bey, taking a contrary direction, fled towards Syria.

The object of Buonaparte's expedition appears to have been altogether unknown in England, at the time of its sailing ; but instructions were in consequence sent to Earl St. Vincent, then stationed off Cadiz, to select a sufficient number of line of battle ships to defeat his armament, whatever might be its destination, and a detachment of ten sail of the line, under Captain Troubridge, was ordered to join Sir Horatio Nelson, who had been dispatched to the Mediterranean with a flying squadron. Rear-admi-

ral Nelson, thus invested with the command of a fleet of fourteen ships, thirteen of which carried seventy-four, and one fifty guns, steered his course towards Malta, and arrived off that island on the 22d of June, when he found that the enemy had quitted that place five days before, taking an eastward direction. Conjecturing that Egypt must be the place of their destination, he sailed for the port of Alexandria, where he arrived on the 28th; but as they had not been seen on that coast, he shaped his course northward for Caramania, and thence returned to Sicily. After obtaining refreshments and assistance of every kind in the bay of Syracuse, he once more sailed for Alexandria, and, on approaching the coast of Egypt, on the 1st of August, discovered the enemy's fleet, moored in a strong and compact line, in the bay of Aboukir, the head-most vessel being close to the shoals on the N. W. and the rest forming a kind of curve along the line of deep water, so as not to be turned on the S. W. The advantage of numbers, both in ships, guns, and men, was in favour of the French; they had 13 ships of the line, and four frigates, carrying 1190 guns, and 10,810 men. The English had the same number of ships of the line, and one fifty gun ship, carrying in all 1012 guns, and 8068 men. The English ships of the line were all seventy-fours; the French had three eighty gun ships, and one three-decker of 120 guns; and the enemy's squadron was, in the opinion of the French commissary of the fleet, moored in such a situation, as to bid defiance to force more than double their own. Nelson decided for an immediate attack, and at six o'clock in the evening of the 1st of August the engagement commenced.

Captain Foley, who led the British van in the



Goliath, darted a-head of the enemy's foremost ship, *Le Guerrier*, doubled her larboard side, and having poured a destructive fire into the Frenchman, moved on to the *Conquerant*, whom he charged with tremendous fury, and in ten minutes shot away her masts: next followed the *Zealous*, Captain Hood, which attacked the *Guerrier*, on the side next the shore, and in twelve minutes, totally disabled her: third proceeded the *Orion*, Sir James Saumarez, and took her station between the enemy's fifth and sixth ships: the *Theseus*, Captain Miller, following the same example, encountered the third ship of the enemy: the *Audacious*, Captain Gould, moved round to the fifth: then advanced the *Vanguard*, carrying the heroic Nelson, and his no less heroic Captain, Berry, and anchored on the outside of the enemy's third ship, with six colours flying in his rigging, lest they should be shot away. Having veered half a cable, he instantly opened a tremendous fire; under cover of which the other four ships of his division, the *Minotaur*, *Bellerophon*, *Defence*, and *Majestic*, sailed on a-head of the admiral. In a few minutes every man stationed at the first six guns, in the fore part of the *Vanguard's* deck, was killed or wounded; and three times in succession did the destructive fire of the enemy sweep away the seamen that served these guns. Captain Louis, in the *Minotaur*, nobly supported his commander, and anchoring next a-head of the *Vanguard*, took off the fire of the *Aquilon*, the fourth in the French line. The *Defence*, Captain Peyton, took her station with great judgment, a-head of the *Minotaur*, and engaged the *Franklin*, of eighty guns, the sixth ship of the enemy, on the starboard bow, which ship bore the flag of Admiral Blanquet de Chelard, the second in command. Thus, by the

masterly seamanship of the British commanders, nine of our ships were so disposed as to bear their force upon six of the enemy. The seventh of the French line was the *Orient*, the admiral's ship, a vessel of immense size, bearing 120 guns: this stupendous adversary was undertaken by the *Bellerophon*, Captain Darby; while the *Majestic*, Captain Westcott, who engaged the *Heureux*, the ninth ship on the starboard bow, received also at the same time the fire of the *Tonnant*, which was the eighth in the line. The other four ships of the British squadron, having been detached previously to the discovery of the French, were at a considerable distance when the action commenced, and the shades of night began to close in upon them before they reached the scene of action. Captain Troubridge, in the *Culloden*, took the lead of these ships, but the increased darkness having greatly augmented the difficulties of the navigation, that vessel suddenly grounded on a shoal, and could not be got off in time to share in the danger and the glory of the action. It was, however, some satisfaction to Captain Troubridge, that his ship served as a beacon to the *Alexander* and *Swiftsure*, which would otherwise have gone considerably further on the reef, and have been inevitably lost. These ships, after escaping the perils to which they had been exposed, took their stations in a manner that commanded general admiration, and at this juncture the *Bellerophon*, overpowered by the huge *Orient*, her lights extinguished, nearly 200 of her crew killed or wounded, and all her masts and cables shot away, was drifting out of the line towards the lee side of the bay, when the *Swiftsure*, which at first mistook her for a ship of the enemy, but was soon undeceived, came up, and taking her station, opened a steady fire on the quarter of the

Franklin, and the bows of the French admiral. At the same instant, Captain Ball, with the *Alexander*, passed under the stern of the *Orient*, and anchoring within side of his larboard quarter, raked him, and kept up a severe fire of musketry on his decks. The last ship which arrived to complete the destruction of the enemy was the *Leander*, Captain Thompson, who took his station in such a position as to rake both the *Franklin* and the *Orient*.

The conflict was now carried on in the darkness of the night, and the only light to guide the operations of the fleets was derived from the flashes of their cannon. The two first ships of the French line had been dismasted, within a quarter of an hour from the commencement of the action, and others had suffered so severely that victory was already certain—its extent was the only remaining question. The third, fourth, and fifth ships of the enemy were taken possession of at half-past eight. While the battle raged with its utmost fury, the British admiral received a wound in the head from a piece of langridge shot, which cut a large flap of the skin of the forehead from the bone, and, falling over his only remaining eye, left him in total darkness. Captain Berry, on whom the command of the ship during the remainder of the action devolved, was standing near his admiral when he received this dreadful wound, and caught him in his arms as he was falling. The great effusion of blood occasioned an apprehension that the wound would be mortal: Nelson himself thought so; and desired his chaplain to deliver his dying remembrances to Lady Nelson; but the surgeon, on examining the wound, pronounced it to be merely superficial. The French Admiral Brueys, who sustained the honour of his flag with undiminished firmness, and had been three times

wounded during the engagement, without quitting his station, now received a shot which almost cut him in two : still he remained upon the deck, and this hero, so well worthy of a better fate, survived his last wound only a quarter of an hour. Soon after nine o'clock, the *Orient* struck her colours, and appeared in flames, which spread with astonishing rapidity, and by the prodigious light of which, the situation of the two fleets could be distinctly seen from the towers of *Rosetta*, a distance of thirty miles. About ten o'clock, the ship blew up with a tremendous explosion, which was succeeded by a silence not less awful. The firing instantly ceased on both sides, and the first sound which broke the portentous stillness was the dash of shattered masts and yards, falling into the water from the vast height to which they had been cast by the explosion. Only about seventy of the crew of the *Orient* could be saved by the English boats, and among the many hundreds who perished, were the *Commodore Casa Bianca* and his son, a brave and intelligent boy about ten years of age : they were for a time seen in the water, on the wreck of the *Orient's* masts, seeking each other, when the ship blew up, and put an end to their hopes and their fears. The *Orient* had on board money to the amount of 600,000*l.* sterling.

After a lapse of about ten minutes, the fire recommenced with the ships to the leeward of the centre, and continued without intermission till three o'clock the next morning. It then grew very faint till about five, when it was resumed with redoubled fury ; but it was, on the enemy's part, the resistance, not of hope, but of despair. At day-break, the *Guillaume Tell* and the *Genereux*, the two rear ships of the enemy, were the only French ships of the line that

had their colours flying, and in the forenoon they cut their cables and stood out to sea, taking along with them two frigates. The *Zealous*, worthy of her name, instantly commenced the pursuit, but as there was no other ship in a condition to support Captain Hood, he was recalled. The firing continued in the bay with some intermission till two o'clock in the afternoon, when it entirely ceased.

Thus ended an engagement which will ever rank amongst the most distinguished achievements in the naval annals of the world. The result was, that out of a fleet of thirteen sail, the admiral's ship of 120 guns, and the *Timoleon* of seventy-four were burnt; while two eighty gun-ships, and seven seventy-fours were captured; and it was the firm persuasion of the British admiral, that had he been more amply provided with frigates, all the enemy's transports and smaller vessels in the harbour would have shared the fate of the ships of the line. This deficiency of frigates he deeply regretted, and in his usual forcible way of expressing himself, said—"Should I die at the present moment, *want of frigates* would be found written on my heart." The British loss in killed and wounded amounted to 895. Of the French 3105, including the wounded, went on shore by cartel, and 5225 perished!—constituting a loss, during that glorious, but fatal night, of upwards of 500 human beings an hour! One British officer of the rank of captain only fell; this was the brave Captain Westcott, who was killed early in the action, and whose place was supplied with great gallantry and skill by his lieutenant, afterwards appointed Captain, Cuthbert.

During the action thousands of the worshippers of Mahomet lined the shores of Egypt, and for three successive nights the coast and adjacent country were

illuminated in honour of the victory. Throughout England it was celebrated with every mark of rejoicing. His Majesty conferred the dignity of Baron, with a pension of 3000*l.* a year, on the admiral, who was called to the House of Peers, by the style and dignity of Baron Nelson of the Nile. The Grand Seignior also transmitted a superb diamond chelengk, or plume of triumph, taken from one of the imperial turbans, and the King of Naples, at a later period, granted the title of Duke of Bronte, with an estate in Sicily, Captains Berry and Thompson received the honour of knighthood, and the other commanders were presented with gold medals. The Turkish Sultan sent a purse of 2000 sequins to be distributed amongst the wounded, and the English nation raised, by public subscription, a considerable sum, for the widows and children of those who fell in the action.

The sensation of this victory was felt over all Europe, and even to the distant shores of India; but it was at Rastadt where the effect became the most evident. The deputation of the empire had already agreed to a plan of indemnities, by means of which, forty-four of the secular and ecclesiastical states were to make immense sacrifices to obtain peace; but the attack on Switzerland and Rome, and the expedition of Buonaparte into Egypt, joined to the opposition he had there encountered, and the recent disaster of the French navy, rendered a new contest on the continent unavoidable. At this juncture too, and partly from the same causes, the Turks declared war against France; and Russia became an efficient member of the new coalition preparing against the French nation, the co-operation of the Emperor Paul being secured by a subsidy, stipulated in a treaty concluded in December between him and the King of Great Britain,

wherein each party engaged not to make a peace or armistice without including the other. This alliance was strengthened rather by the activity than the power of the King of Naples, who, after issuing a declaration of war against the republic on the 22d of November, put his army in motion against the French on the 23d of that month, and on the 29th succeeded in making himself master of the Roman capital. This success, however, was of short duration, for on the 15th of December the Neapolitan troops sustained a signal defeat at Civita Castellana, and this disaster was followed by the immediate evacuation of Rome. After a series of defeats during a continued retreat, Ferdinand the Fourth was obliged, on the last day of the year, to abdicate all his continental dominions, and to take refuge on board an English man of war.

The King of Sardinia, though entirely at the mercy of the French, was accused of leaguings with the Neapolitans, and his overthrow was no difficult achievement. From the time of the formation of the Cisalpine and Ligurian republics, an insurrectionary spirit had existed against his government, which obliged him to solicit the interposition of France, and his kingdom was for a time secured to him, on condition that the citadel of Turin should be confided to the care of a French garrison; which was complied with in the beginning of July. The easy conquest of Piedmont being thus secured, the king, in the month of December, signed an act of abdication, and withdrew to the island of Sardinia. Under French influence, also, some revolutionary changes were effected in the government of Holland, which had hitherto been left, in a great measure, to take care of its own concerns, and in the month of August a new directorial government was completely organized. In the be-

ginning of October a violent insurrection broke out in the Belgian provinces, lately united to France, which pervaded five departments, and was not quelled without much bloodshed.

The haughtiness and disregard of national rights which now characterized the proceedings of the French government was near involving it in a quarrel with the United States of America. Deputies having been sent to France for the purpose of accommodating subsisting differences, they were treated with so much arrogance, and demands were advanced so unjust in their nature, that a law was enacted by congress to break off every commercial relation with France and its dependencies, and to forbid the entrance of French vessels into the American ports. The effect of these and other hostile measures was softened by the arrival of a secret agent at Paris, and the negotiations were afterwards openly renewed under more favourable circumstances.

In the spring of this year, an expedition was fitted out in England against Maritime Flanders, for the express purpose of blowing up the bason, gates, and sluices of the Bruges canal, as well as destroying the internal navigation, by means of which transportschuyts, instead of risking a sea voyage, were enabled to keep up an internal intercourse between Holland, France, and Flanders. An armament accordingly sailed for the purpose, from Margate roads, on the 18th of May, under Captain Popham, with a body of troops, consisting of 1200 men, commanded by Major-general Coote. Having landed on the following day without opposition, they proceeded to burn several boats, demolish the sluice-gates, and effect a grand explosion, by which it was intended to destroy a great



national work, which had cost the States of Bruges an immense sum of money, and had not been completed with a labour of five years. Thus having, as was supposed, rendered the Bruges canal unserviceable, the commander-in-chief attempted about noon to return on board the shipping, but the wind was so high, and the surf so much increased, as to render it impracticable. Upon this it was deemed proper to occupy a position upon the sand-hills, at a little distance from the beach, and, by way of gaining time, the governor of Ostend was summoned to surrender; but this fate was unhappily reserved for the invaders themselves, as that officer found means in the course of the night to assemble a great force, with which he hemmed in the English early in the morning, and all resistance being in vain, they surrendered, after a gallant defence, in the course of which the major-general was wounded. Captain Popham endeavoured without effect to obtain an exchange of prisoners, and it appears at first to have been the intention of the French government to oblige the British troops to labour at the reparation of the works they had destroyed, but it was found on inspection that the damage was but trifling.

In the month of November a small armament was dispatched against Minorca, under the command of Admiral Duckworth, and General Stuart, and a descent was made near the creek of Addaya. As the invaders had few of the requisites of a siege, their adversaries might, with a small share of spirit, have made a considerable resistance; intimidated, however, by the movements of the troops, and the appearance of the squadron, the garrison capitulated on the 15th of November, and the whole island was reduced

without the loss of a single man. About the same time the isle of Goza, near Malta, capitulated to a detachment of Admiral Nelson's squadron.

In St. Domingo, however, the English were unable to extend their acquisitions; and the fury of disease made such alarming havoc among them, that at length Major-general Maitland was instructed to surrender Port-au-Prince and St. Marc to Toussaint L'Ouverture, a negro commander, who had nearly annihilated the dominion of the French in the island; and in the course of the year they evacuated every other post. Such were the checquered scenes of the campaign of 1798; but the balance of victory, of disinterested policy, and of success in arms, the affairs of Egypt taken into the scale, certainly preponderated in favour of England.

On the meeting of Parliament, on the 20th of November, the speech from the throne spoke, with just exultation, of the late splendid triumphs of our navy under Lord Nelson, which had turned an extravagant enterprise to the confusion of its authors, and afforded an opening which might lead to the general deliverance of Europe. The wisdom and magnanimity displayed by the Emperor of Russia, with the decision and vigour of the Ottoman Porte, were mentioned as examples to encourage other states in adopting a line of conduct, which experience had shown to be alone consistent with security and honour. The address, moved in the Lords by Earl Darnley, and seconded by Lord Craven, was animadverted upon by the Marquis of Lansdown, who exhorted ministers to draw from these victories, so justly celebrated, the advantages they were calculated to secure, and to make them the means of obtaining that most desirable of all objects, a safe and honourable peace. **The**

question upon the address, however, was carried in both Houses without a division. On the 11th of December, Mr. Tierney moved, in the Commons, "that it is the duty of his Majesty's ministers to advise him not to enter into any alliance with foreign powers, that may hinder his Majesty from negotiating a peace with France, whenever she may be disposed to enter upon a fair and equitable negotiation." This motion was negatived. The renewal of the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act was the next measure of importance that came under discussion; and it was agreed by both Houses, that the Suspension should continue till the 21st of May, 1799, though exposed as a measure of which the necessity had ceased.

The great and continually increasing expense of the war had induced the minister, in the course of the last session of Parliament, to bring forward for the sanction of the House, a new system of finance, the principle of which was to raise within the year a large proportion of the necessary supplies, which, aided by the operation of the sinking fund, should prevent any material addition being made to the public debt. The tax proposed for this purpose, called the triple assessment tax, was, however, found so inadequate to the object, that the minister determined to abandon that unequal and oppressive impost, and to substitute in its stead a tax on income. Accordingly, on the 3d of December, the House having formed itself into a committee, Mr. Pitt stated that the supplies which would be necessary for the service of the present year, amounted to about 30,000,000*l.* towards which the usual ways and means would produce 6,100,000*l.* It remained then to be considered in what way the deficiency should be raised. Here two leading principles occurred for the

guidance of the House—either to raise the whole by loan upon the old funding system, or to raise a considerable part of the supplies within the year, upon the principle adopted in the last session of Parliament. Mr. Pitt then proceeded to state his new plan of finance, which was a tax on income. The commissioners, who should be vested with the power of determining upon the rate of every one's income, should be persons of respectable situations in life, removed from any suspicion of partiality; men of integrity and independence; and in case the party was dissatisfied with their decision, another body of commissioners should be formed, to whom an appeal might be carried. The next point for consideration was the mode of contribution that should be adopted. Under this head it was his intention to propose, that no income under 60*l.* a year should be called upon to contribute, and that the scale of modification, up to 200*l.* a year, as in the assessed taxes, should be introduced with restrictions. The quota which should then be called for should amount to a full tenth of the contributor's income. The returns to be made by the person assessed, subject to the inspection of a surveyor, who should lay before the commissioners such grounds of doubt as might occur to him, on the fairness of the rate at which a party might have assessed himself. The party, however, should not be compelled to answer; his books should not be called for, nor his confidential clerks or agents examined; but, if he declined to submit to such investigation, it should be competent for the commissioners to fix the assessment, and their decision should be final. The national income, after deducting one-fifth for modifications, he calculated at 102,000,000*l.* on which amount a tax of ten *per cent* would produce 10,000,000*l.* a year.

**Mr. Tierney** contended, that, by this bold measure, a tenth part of the property of England was put in requisition—a measure which the French had followed in their career of revolutionary rapine, and which the Chancellor of the Exchequer first condemned, and then initiated; and, as a prelude to the project, a general disclosure of property must take place. The scale of taxation was also manifestly inadequate and unjust. If it were right that the scale should rise from 60*l.* to 200*l.* *per annum*, why should it not continue to rise from 200*l.* upwards? The man of 200*l.* *per annum* would be deprived of a part of the comforts he possessed, while the man of 20,000*l.* *per annum* would still riot in the enjoyment of all his luxuries. He asked whether a person possessing an income of a certain sum only for a time, and another of the same income derived from the interest of his own capital, were equally rich and could bear the same taxes. He could hardly have supposed that what was said against adding perpetual taxes, and increasing the capital of debt, instead of raising large supplies within the year to prevent the accumulation of the debt, came from the same man who had increased continually, for the last five years, the permanent taxes; who had in that time also added 150,000,000*l.* to the capital of the national debt. Upon his conscience he believed it was by peace only that the British empire could be secured.

The bill having been committed, and the report brought up, Sir Francis Baring affirmed, that under the veil of secrecy, which covered the commercial returns, the bill would be evaded and frauds committed, beyond any thing it was possible to conceive. But, supposing the bill carried into effect, it was a tax upon industry and upon enterprise. Mr. Wil-

liam Smith declared his decided approbation of the principle of raising the supplies within the year, which could alone preserve the public finances from impending ruin ; but the provisions of this bill he deemed in the highest degree exceptionable. By what criterion could it be adjudged fair and honest to tax, in an equal degree, industry and indolence ? A stock-holder, who received 500*l.* per annum from his capital in the funds, and a shopkeeper of small property, who by active exertions made the same sum in his business, were similarly rated ! Even in the funds, proprietors of the long annuities, of perpetual annuities, and of the exchequer annuities, which expire in five years, were, by this sweeping and indiscriminate mode of taxation, placed precisely upon a level. Mr. Pitt, in reply, observed that an honourable gentleman had said, that if two persons had each 500*l. per annum*, one of whom derived his income from land, and the other from industry, they ought not both to be taxed equally at 50*l.* : but to complain of this inequality was to complain of the distribution of property ; it was to complain of the constitution of society. The consequence of this tax would be to all alike, and whoever contributed a tenth of his income, under the bill, would have a tenth less to spend, to save, or to accumulate. The House then divided, for the further consideration of the report, 183 ; against it, 17 ; majority, 166. After undergoing several amendments, the bill was passed into a law on the 18th of March, 1799, and the 5th of April was fixed as the time for making the returns. The remaining supplies were to be made up from the new imposts on sugar, coffee, and stamps, aided by the recently imposed convoy-tax. About 250,000 land forces, of different descriptions, and 120,000 seamen

and marines were also voted. A bill to enlarge the time prescribed by an act of the last session, for the redemption of the land-tax, and to make certain regulations respecting ecclesiastical property, and the property devised for lives and for long terms, was also carried into a law.

On the 22d of January the following important message was delivered by Mr. Secretary Dundas: "His Majesty is persuaded that the unremitting industry with which our enemies persevere in their avowed design of effecting the separation of Ireland from this kingdom, cannot fail to engage the particular attention of Parliament, and his Majesty recommends it to this House to consider of the most effectual means of finally defeating this design, by disposing the Parliaments of both kingdoms to provide, in a manner which they shall judge most expedient, for settling such a complete and final adjustment, as may best tend to improve and perpetuate a connexion essential to their common security, and consolidate the strength, power, and resources of the British empire." This message was taken into discussion on the following day, when Mr. Dundas moved an address, importing that the House would proceed, with all due dispatch, to the consideration of the several interests recommended to their serious attention. Mr. Sheridan declared that he was perfectly ready, on this occasion, to give credit to ministers for purity of intention, as they could not be suspected of proposing a measure, which, in their own opinion, tended ultimately to the separation of Ireland from Great Britain. He said that the object of this message was evidently an Union, though the word itself was not to be found in it. But, did the people of Ireland manifest any wish to unite? On the contrary, they had unequivocally

declared themselves hostile to this design; and, if it were carried, it would be an union effected by fraud, corruption and intimidation. Before the recommendation contained in the message was attended to, it was incumbent upon ministers to show, that the last pledge of the English Parliament to the people of Ireland, by which their independence was recognised, and their rights acknowledged, had not produced that unanimity which the Parliaments of the two countries sought to cherish. And he concluded with moving, as an amendment to the address proposed, that the House, for the first time, learned from his Majesty, with surprise and deep regret, that the final adjustment, which, upon his Majesty's gracious recommendation, took place between the two kingdoms in 1782, had not produced the effects expected from that solemn settlement: and further, humbly to express to his Majesty, that his faithful Commons had strong reasons to believe, that it was in the contemplation of his Majesty's ministers to propose an union of the legislatures of the two kingdoms, notwithstanding that final and solemn adjustment; humbly imploring his Majesty not to listen to the counsels of those who should advise such a measure at the present crisis.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer contended, that a permanent connexion between Britain and Ireland was essential to the true interests of both countries, and that, unless the existing connexion should be improved, there was, he had strong reason to believe, great risk of a separation. After a debate of some length, Mr. Sheridan withdrew his amendment, and the original motion was put and carried.

The same day on which the message on the union was delivered to the British Senate, the session of the



**Irish Parliament** commenced at **Dublin** ; and a speech on this occasion was made by the **Lord-Lieutenant**, which concluded with a hope that the **Parliaments** in both kingdoms would be disposed to provide the most effectual means of maintaining and improving a connexion, essential to their common security, and of consolidating, as far as possible, into one firm and lasting fabric, the strength, the power, and the resources of the **British empire**. The address in the **House of Peers** was opposed chiefly by the **Lords Powerscourt** and **Bellamont**, who severally moved amendments, expressive of their disapprobation of a legislative union with **Great Britain**. On the first division, the numbers were 46 to 19, and on the last 35 to 17, in favour of the court. But in the **House of Commons**, after a debate of twenty hours, the contest was so close, that only a majority of one appeared against the amendment ; the numbers being, on the division, 106 and 105 ; and when the question was put for agreeing to the address, the ministry had in their favour only 107 against 105 voices. The address was reported two days afterwards, when **Sir Lawrence Parsons** strenuously opposed its being received, and, after a violent debate, his motion was carried by a majority of 111 to 106 voices. The exultation of the **Irish metropolis** at this defeat of the ministry was unbounded ; the unionists were insulted and calumniated by every possible mode of attack ; and the chief speaker of opposition acquired a sudden and extraordinary increase of popularity. The vehement enthusiasm of the capital, nevertheless, did not extend to the nation at large ; the weight of the landed interest was in favour of the measure ; and **Cork**, the second city of the kingdom, and the commercial towns in general, though greatly agitated and

divided, were, upon the whole, rather friendly than hostile to it.

On the 31st of January the subject was again brought under consideration by Mr. Pitt, who said, that when he proposed to the House to fix that day for the further consideration of his Majesty's message, he indulged a hope that the result of a similar communication, to the Parliament of Ireland, would have opened a more favourable prospect than at present existed, of the speedy accomplishment of the measure then in contemplation; he had, however, been disappointed by the proceedings of the Irish House of Commons. He was convinced, that the Parliament of Ireland possessed the power, the entire competence, to accept or reject a proposition of this nature; a power which he by no means meant to dispute; but while he admitted these rights, he felt, that as a member of the Parliament of Great Britain, he had a right to exercise, and a duty to perform; *viz.* to express the general nature and outline of the plan, which, in his estimation, would tend to insure the safety and the happiness of the two kingdoms. Should Parliament be of opinion that it was calculated to produce mutual advantages, he should propose it, in order to its being recorded on the journals, leaving the rejection or adoption of the plan to the full and future consideration of the legislature of Ireland. Mr. Pitt remarked, that the union with Scotland was as much opposed, and by nearly the same arguments, prejudices, and misconceptions; creating the same alarms as had recently taken place in respect to Ireland: yet, could any man now doubt of the advantages which Scotland had derived from it? One of the greatest impediments to the prosperity of Ireland, was the want of industry, and the want of capital,

which were only to be supplied by blending more closely with Ireland the industry and capital of this country. In the present state of things also, and while Ireland remained a separate kingdom, no reasonable person would affirm that full concessions could be made to the Catholics, without endangering the state, and shaking the constitution of Ireland to its centre. At the conclusion of a very able speech, he proposed a series of resolutions, and moved that the House resolve itself into a committee, to discuss the same in their proper order.

The plan proposed that the two islands should be united into one kingdom, by the name of "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland;" that the succession to the crown should be limited and settled as at present; that the united kingdom should be represented in one and the same Parliament, and that such a number of lords and commons as shall be hereafter agreed upon shall sit and vote on the part of Ireland; that the churches of England and Ireland be preserved as now by law established; that the King's subjects in Ireland be entitled to the same privileges, in respect of trade and navigation, with those of Great Britain, subject to certain regulations, to be agreed upon previously to the union, and regulated from time to time by the united Parliament; that the charge arising from the payment of the interest, or sinking fund for the reduction of the principal, of the debt incurred in either kingdom before the union, shall continue to be separately defrayed by Great Britain and Ireland respectively; that for a number of years to be limited, the future ordinary expenses of the united kingdom in peace or war should be defrayed by Great Britain and Ireland jointly, according to such proportions as shall be established by the respective Parliaments pre-

vously to the union ; and that all laws in force at the time of the union, and all the courts of civil or ecclesiastical jurisdiction within the respective kingdoms, shall remain as now by law established within the same, subject only to such alterations or regulations, from time to time, as circumstances appear to the Parliament of the united kingdom to require.

Mr. Sheridan again avowed his utter dislike and disapprobation of the measure, and stated his intention of moving two resolutions, declaring that no measures could have a tendency to improve and perpetuate the ties of amity, which had not for their basis the fair and free approbation of the Parliaments of the two countries ; and that whoever should endeavour to obtain such approbation, by employing the influence of government, was an enemy to his Majesty and the constitution. The House divided on the question of the speaker's leaving the chair ; ayes 140, noes 15 ; and after some further debates on the subject, Mr. Pitt's resolutions were carried by large majorities. On the 14th of February the report of the committee was brought up, when it was ordered, that a message be sent to the Lords, requesting a conference respecting the means of perpetuating and improving the connexion between the two kingdoms.

The subject had previously been introduced into the House of Peers, by a message from the King, delivered by Lord Grenville. The address in answer to this message was voted unanimously by the House, which then adjourned. From this period the business remained dormant in the Upper House till the 18th of February, when the message from the Commons was delivered by Earl Temple. A conference accordingly taking place in the painted chamber, the Lords deputed on this occasion soon returned with a copy of

the resolutions moved by the House of Commons. On the 19th of March, their lordships having been summoned, Lord Grenville moved, that the House do agree with the resolutions of the Commons. This motion, though strenuously opposed, was agreed to without a division.

On the 11th of April, the House having been again summoned, Lord Grenville moved an address to the throne, which was also carried without a division; but a protest was signed against it by the Lords Holland, Thanet, and King. A committee was then named, consisting of Lord Grenville, Lord Minto, Lord Auckland, and the Bishop of Llandaff, to draw up an address conformable to the motion, which having been effected, the Commons, in a second conference on the following day, were invited to join in the same, and to agree that it should be presented to his Majesty as the address of both Houses of Parliament, which was accordingly done in the most solemn manner.

In Ireland the further consideration of the bill was postponed till the 1st of August. It was, however, manifest, that the court were determined to persevere; and the Lord-Lieutenant, on the termination of the session, announced, that a joint address of the two Houses of Parliament of Great Britain had been laid before his Majesty, accompanied by resolutions proposing and recommending a complete and entire union between Great Britain and Ireland. And he further declared, that his Majesty, as the common father of his people, must look forward, with earnest anxiety, to the moment when, in conformity to the sentiments, wishes, and real interests of his subjects in both kingdoms, they may all be inseparably united in the full enjoyment of the blessings of a free constitution.

Mr. Wilberforce's annual motion for the abolition of the slave trade, had in this session to encounter an additional opposition, arising from the existence of a negro army in St. Domingo, and the efforts made to propagate democratical principles through the West India islands. It was consequently negatived by a majority of 84 to 54.

Parliament was prorogued on the 12th of July, 1799, when his Majesty was pleased to declare, that the decision and energy which distinguished the councils of his ally, the Emperor of Russia, and the intimate union and concert so happily established between them, would enable him to employ, to the greatest advantage, the powerful means intrusted to him by Parliament, for establishing, on permanent grounds, the security and honour of this country, and the liberty and independence of Europe. On this occasion he also expressed his satisfaction in seeing that internal tranquillity was in some degree restored to Ireland, the ultimate security of which could alone be insured by its intimate and entire union with Great Britain.

#### CHAPTER XXIV.

AFTER the signal defeat of the French fleet at Aboukir, by which Buonaparte was separated from France, he exerted himself to secure the affection of the Egyptians, by flattering their religious prejudices; by recalling their ancient greatness, and asserting that he wished to restore them to their pristine grandeur; by professions of regard for his ally, the emperor at Constantinople; and by pretending that the invasion

of Egypt, and the expulsion of the Beys, were measures which merited or had obtained his assent. Aided by the artists who accompanied the expedition, he formed a national academy and a great establishment for the different mechanical arts; he assembled the sheicks from different provinces, and submitted to their deliberations certain objects of political economy; and at a festival of the anniversary of the institution of the French republic, he introduced military evolutions, horse and foot races, fire-works, and other Parisian amusements. These arts, however, failed to produce the desired effect, and his arms alone could insure the obedience which he courted, or avert the danger which he dreaded. An insurrection at Cairo had nearly proved fatal to his cause, and some hundreds of the French, including General Dupuis, their commander, were killed before it could be suppressed; a much larger number of the insurgents of course perished, and not a few afterwards fell by the hands of the executioner; for Buonaparte, wherever he went, treated all who opposed him as traitors and rebels. Various skirmishes, and some sharp actions, took place between the invaders and the Mamelukes, under the command of the Beys, in different parts of the country, particularly in Upper Egypt, in all of which the superior discipline and tactics of the French baffled the rude courage and desultory attacks of their opponents. It could not, however, be supposed that the Porte would leave them in quiet possession of a portion of her territory, or that England would make no effort to wrest it from their hands: Buonaparte was aware that, if an army was sent from Europe to attack him on one side, while a Turkish force from Asia assailed him on the other, he might not be able to extricate himself from the diffi-

culties with which he would be surrounded, and he therefore resolved to attack the Turks in the first instance, in the hopes of subduing them before they could receive assistance from other quarters. He accordingly made preparations for an expedition against Acre, and sent his train of artillery, destined for the siege, by sea. The army, in four divisions, under the command of Kleber, Bon, Regnier, and Lannes, proceeded to El-Arisch, where an action was fought, in which the French were successful. They then advanced into the fertile plains of Gaza, and having met with little opposition, moved forward to Jaffa, anciently called Joppa, a sea-port town, on the coast of Palestine, which was carried by assault, with great loss, after a vigorous defence. Numbers of the garrison were put to the sword; but the greater part having taken refuge in the mosques, and implored mercy from the French, their lives were spared.

The atrocities stated to have been committed by order of Buonaparte, immediately after the capture of Jaffa, although confidently asserted by highly respectable authorities, are so totally unparalleled in the history of modern warfare, that it is difficult to give credit to the recital. Being encumbered with near 4000 prisoners, from the care and maintenance of which, it is said, Buonaparte found it necessary to relieve himself, he ordered them to be marched to a rising ground near Jaffa, where volleys of musketry and grape shot were played upon them by a division of French infantry, and such of the Turks as were not killed by the shot were put to death with the bayonet. The accumulation of unburied bodies occasioned the visitation of the plague, by which a great number of French soldiers were soon infected, the hospitals crowded, and the medical staff embar-



rassed. In this crisis Buonaparte found an apothecary who consented to administer poison to the sick. A sufficient quantity of opium was accordingly mixed with pleasant food, of which the unsuspecting victims freely partook ; and, in a few hours, 580 soldiers, who had suffered so much for the tyrants of their country, thus miserably perished. Sir Robert Wilson, Dr. Wittman, Mr. Morier, and others, have stated these occurrences as facts ; and although they are difficult to be believed, it is equally difficult to conceive that they can be altogether unfounded.

At Jaffa, as at all other places of importance in his route, Buonaparte constituted a divan of the principal inhabitants in the French interest, and after appointing Adjutant-general Gressier to the command of the place, he marched at the head of his troops for Acre, which at this moment contained within its walls two men, who, with the romantic heroism of the days of chivalry, united all the knowledge appertaining to the modern art of war—Sir W. Sidney Smith, a British naval officer, of distinguished enterprise, and Colonel Phillippeaux, an emigrant officer of engineers. After rescuing his friend, Sir Sidney, from bondage in the Temple, and restoring him to liberty at the hazard of his life, Phillippeaux accompanied him in a small squadron to which he had been appointed, and after cruising with him in the Levant, had embarked for Syria, to employ his talents as an engineer, and to afford assistance to the Pacha. On the 19th of March, 1799, it was determined to attack the front of the salient angle to the eastward, and on the 30th the trenches were opened, about 150 fathoms from the wall ; but as the besiegers were deficient in heavy artillery, the impression made by them was neither sudden nor formidable. On the day the trenches

were opened, the garrison made a spirited sortie, but were forced to retire with precipitation within the walls, and on the 1st of April the enemy advanced to storm the fortress; it was soon discovered, however, that a ditch of fifteen feet was to be passed, while the counterscarp was almost untouched, and the breach, which was not large, had been effected upwards of six feet above the level of the works. Notwithstanding these obstacles, a body of grenadiers descended into the ditch, and attempted to scale the wall; but the only effect produced by the late explosion being a small opening in the glacis, nothing could be achieved. The garrison was at first seized with terror, and many of the Turkish soldiers ran towards the harbour, but no sooner did they discover that the opening in the wall was several feet above the rubbish, than they returned to the charge, and showered down stones, grenades, and combustibles, upon the assailants, who were obliged to retire, after losing two adjutants-general, and a great number of men. This event afforded so much encouragement to the troops of the Pacha, that on the 5th they made another sally, in which they killed *Detroye, chef-de-brigade*, and several others of the besiegers. In the interim, the English squadron discovered, in the neighbourhood of Mount Carmel, a corvette and nine sail of gun-boats, laden with artillery and ammunition, intended to assist in the reduction of Acre, seven of which, containing all the battering train, were captured; and this fortunate incident contributed greatly to save the city, no intelligence having been received by the French army of the three frigates which had sailed from Alexandria for Jaffa. At this period of the siege, Ghezzar Oglou, the Pacha, dispersed his firmauns among the Naplouzians, as well

their dead built in with them. At this most critical point of the contest, Hassan Bey's troops, though they had advanced half-way towards the shore, were still in their boats. Sir Sidney Smith, whose energy and talents gave effect to every operation, landed the boats on the mole, and placing himself at the head of the crew, marched them to the breach, each man being armed with a pike. A heap of ruins between the besieged and besiegers served as a breast-work for both; the muzzles of the muskets touched, and the spear heads of the standards locked. Ghezzar Pacha, hearing that the English were on the breach, quitted his station, where, according to the ancient Turkish custom, he was sitting to reward such as should bring him the heads of the enemy, and distributing cartridges with his own hands. This energetic old man, coming behind his British allies, pulled them down with violence, saying, "if any harm happen to our English friends, all will be lost." The whole of the reinforcements being now landed, the Pacha, with some difficulty, so far subdued his jealousy as to admit the Chiffick regiment, of 1000 men, into the garden of his seraglio, from whence a vigorous sally was made, with an intention to obtain possession of the enemy's third parallel, or nearest trench, but the Turks, unequal to such a movement, were driven back into the town with loss; and although the sortie did not succeed, it had the effect of obliging the enemy to expose themselves above their parapets, and the flanking fire of the garrison, aided by a few hand grenades, dislodged them from the tower. Determined to persevere, the enemy effected a new breach by an incessant fire directed to the southward, every shot knocking down whole sheets of a wall, much less solid than that of the tower, on which they had expended so much

time and ammunition. At the suggestion of the Pacha, the breach was not this time defended, but a certain number of the enemy was let in, and then closed upon, according to the Turkish mode of war, when a sabre in one hand, and a dagger in the other, proving more than a match for the bayonets, the survivors hastened to sound a retreat. Thus ended a contest, continued with little intermission for five-and-twenty hours, and in which nature, sinking under the exertion, demanded repose.

As the capture of Acre became dubious, chagrin began to be visible in the conduct of Buonaparte, who, for the first time in his life, beheld himself foiled, and that too by a town scarcely defensible according to the rules of art; while the surrounding hills were crowded with spectators, awaiting the result of the contest, to declare for the victor. The plague also found its way into the French camp, and 700 men had already fallen martyrs to that terrible malady. In this deplorable situation the French commander-in-chief determined to make a last effort, and General Kleber's division was recalled from the fords of Jordan, to take its turn in the daily efforts to mount the breach at Acre, in which every other division in succession had failed, with the loss of their bravest men, and about three-fourths of their officers. Before this reinforcement could commence its operations, another sally was made, on the night of the 10th of May, by the Turkish Chifflick regiment, who succeeded in making themselves masters of the enemy's third parallel; but the impetuosity of a few of the Turks carried them on to the second trench, where they lost some of their standards, though they succeeded before their retreat in spiking four guns. Kleber's division, instead of

cessful operations, set himself down before the capital of Tippoo's dominions at the latter end of April, and on the 4th of May, a practical breach having been effected, Seringapatam was taken by assault. Tippoo himself, and several of his chiefs, perished in the action.

The East India Company obtained additional territory by this conquest; other parts were allotted to the Nizam and the Mahrattas, and the remaining portion of the Mysore was conferred on a descendant of the ancient Rajahs, who had been dispossessed by Hyder. The British dominion in the east, by annihilating the most dangerous of all the native powers, was now established on a permanent foundation, and the French directory had the mortification of being not only foiled in one of their greatest attempts, but of witnessing the utter extinction of those means and resources by which they hoped to accomplish it.

After the return of Buonaparte from Syria to Egypt, the Turkish force made a vain attempt to recover that country from the French. The undisciplined Mussulmans were, after an obstinate action near Aboukir, defeated with great loss on the 25th of July, and compelled to retire. Buonaparte, however, ruminating on his repulse at Acre, where he had, for the first time, experienced defeat and disgrace, and fearful that he might not always be successful in imposing on his followers, whom he had persuaded, on the present occasion, that his expedition had answered every purpose for which it was undertaken, and had covered the army with glory, resolved to repair to a country more congenial with his disposition and pursuits. This resolution to abandon his post, and to desert those gallant men who had braved every danger at his command, was only equalled by the mode in

which it was accomplished. Leaving a sealed packet, addressed to General Kleber, nominating that officer to the command of the army in Egypt during his absence, he embarked suddenly, on the 24th of August, with Generals Berthier, Lannes, Murat, and Andréossi, accompanied by Monge, Benthonet, and Arnaud, members of the Egyptian Institute, and attended by several Mamelukes, the future guards of his person. He communicated his design to none but those whom he intended to accompany him; he stripped the military chests of the last sol; and he left the army in a most deplorable state. He was a deserter too, in every sense of the word; for he left his command without orders, and even without permission. That singular good fortune, however, to which he was so often indebted, attended him on this occasion; for after repeatedly escaping the vigilance of the English cruisers, he landed, first at Ajaccio, and then at Frejus, and on his arrival at Paris, on the 16th of October, he was courted by all parties, and invited by the Directory to a grand festival, during which it was found impossible to veil that jealousy, and distrust, which now began to prevail between the general and several members of the government.

Hitherto the congress at Rastadt had proved ineffective. The late expedition into the Roman territory having proved eminently disastrous to the King of Naples, now an exile from his kingdom, an armistice was signed by Prince Pignatelli, on behalf of the Neapolitan government, on the 7th of January, 1799, by which the French forces under Championnet obtained possession of the city of Capua, and thence advanced to the capital, which they entered on the 23d, after a gallant but unavailing resistance. Naples was then proclaimed a republic, under the designation

of the Parthenopean commonwealth ; and the provisional government was confided to twenty-one citizens, chosen by the French general.

Whilst the French plenipotentiaries were menacing the ministers of the Emperor of Germany with a renewal of hostilities, if a passage were afforded to the Russian troops into Italy ; and while the army under Championnet was employed in establishing the Parthenopean republic, the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, in front of Coblenz, was obliged, after a memorable defence, to capitulate, on the 24th of January, to the French General D'Allemagne.

The Emperor Paul, of Russia, entered into the new confederacy against the French republic, with all the zeal inspired by a chivalrous attachment to the cause of legitimate government, and an hereditary passion for military glory. An appearance of negociation was still kept up at Rastadt ; but the Emperor of Germany, dissatisfied with the provisions of the treaty of Campo Formio, and certain of powerful co-operation in the event of a renewal of the contest, no longer concealed his sentiments. The French, by their unbounded encroachments on the rights of other nations, gave him a plausible pretence for re-arming ; and in a short time a powerful force was in the field. The Archduke Charles assembled 55,000 men between the Inn and the Lech ; Generals Starray and Hotze headed about 20,000 more in the Palatinate and the country of the Grisons ; General Bellegarde occupied the Tyrol, with about 25,000 ; and an army of about 60,000, under General Kray, prepared to enter Italy, and re-conquer Lombardy. The command of the French " army of the Danube " was confided to General Jourdan, who on the 1st of March crossed the Rhine in three places ; and whilst General Berna-

dotte blockaded the fortress of Philipsburg, Mannheim opened its gates to another body of French troops : on the 20th, however, the archduke determined to give them battle, and the day was contested with great bravery on both sides, Jourdan maintaining his position until night put an end to the action ; when, under cover of darkness, he retreated to a station near Engen. On the 25th, a second battle was fought on the plain of Lieblingen, in the midst of woods ; and such was the eagerness on both sides, that the two commanders-in-chief, after reconnoitring in person, instead of assuming, as usual, a centre position in the rear, fought at the head of their respective troops. Night, which again put an end to the combat, left the victory undecided ; and on the ensuing morning the invaders renewed their attack : being, however, once more foiled, General Jourdan, after sustaining a loss of about 4000 men, retreated before the archduke, and recrossed the Rhine at Lauttemburg and Strasburg. Massena, to whom the command of the army of Switzerland was confided, had taken the field for the purpose of driving the Austrians from the mountainous regions inhabited by the Grisons ; but the defeat of the grand army in Suabia checked his career.

The chief command of the French armies in Italy had been transferred to Scherer, and his first efforts were directed against Tuscany. Having obtained possession of the capital, the port of Leghorn was at the same time seized by General Miollis, and all the property appertaining to the subjects of Britain, Portugal, Austria, Russia, the Ottoman Porte, and the states of Barbary, subjected to sequestration ; while the Grand Duke and his family were furnished with a guard of honour, and allowed to proceed to the German capital. Scherer then marched to Mantua,



where it was determined to attack the enemy before they could receive any reinforcements from Suabia, or effect a junction with the Russians. The Austrians, under General Kray, at this time occupied Verona and its vicinity. On the 26th of March, the action commenced in the neighbourhood of Castel Nuovo, between the lake of Garda and the Adige, and continued with various success from sun-rising till night, when, after a most severe contest, the French were driven across the latter river. Three days after this sanguinary conflict, Scherer again attacked all the Austrian posts, but was defeated with immense loss.

The Russian General Suworow arrived at Verona in April, and took upon himself the command of the Austro-Russian army, now estimated at 100,000 men. At this critical period Scherer resigned to Moreau the command of his reduced and dispersed army, and a retreat having become absolutely necessary, the fortresses of Peschiera and Mantua were abandoned to their fate, and Generals Kray and Klanau blockaded them with 25,000 men. Suworow hastened to avail himself of the advantages he enjoyed over a retreating foe; the town and citadel of Brescia, with a garrison of 1000 men, capitulated to the troops under his command; and an engagement, fought on the 27th of April, determined the fate of the Cisalpine republic: on the following day the conquerors entered the city of Milan, and about the same time Count de Bellegarde obtained an uninterrupted series of successes in the mountainous regions of the Engadine; while Hotze dislodged the French troops in the Grison country from all their positions between Luciensteig and Coire. In Switzerland, several partial insurrections against the French authorities took place; the canton of Uri was in arms; the Valais had risen

in mass ; and a great part of the Valteline was in possession of the imperialists. Peschiera also surrendered after a short siege to Count St. Julien ; and Moreau, yielding to superior numbers, was obliged to abandon his strong position between the Po and Tenoaro, after defeating General Vukassowich on the banks of the Bormida. The disasters of the French in Italy were productive of extraordinary changes in the southern part of that peninsula, and subjected those who had taken part in the revolutions in Naples and Rome to the most terrible responsibility.

In Calabria, Cardinal Ruffo, having raised a number of new levies round the royal standard, and having overcome the detachments sent against him in several actions, determined on still greater exploits. On receiving intelligence that the French had evacuated Naples, he collected the wreck of General Mack's army, and being joined by a body of English and Russians, marched against the capital, of part of which he made himself master on the feast of St. Anthony. The executive directory of Naples, the members of the legislature, and all those who had countenanced the Parthenopean republic, were obliged to take shelter within the fortresses, which fell in succession into the hands of the royal forces ; and, on the 13th of July, Fort St. Elmo, the last and strongest of these military stations, was obliged to capitulate to the allies, assisted by a body of British seamen under Captain Troubridge. The satisfaction derived from the retreat of the French army extended to every part of Italy. In Tuscany 40,000 of the inhabitants, on learning the disasters of Moreau and Macdonald, attacked the republicans on every side ; the garrison of Florence abandoned the capital ; and the ancient magistrates resumed their functions. A few days

after, a column of Austrians obliged the invaders to abandon Lucca ; and Leghorn was evacuated by capitulation ; Rome, however, remained unconquered, but the most vigorous measures were now taken to subdue that city ; and while a body of Tuscan troops, aided by a detachment of Neapolitans, invested the ancient capital of the world, Captain Troubridge, who had appeared off the mouth of the Tiber, summoned General Grenier, the commander of the garrison, to surrender. On the 20th of September a convention was concluded, by which it was agreed to evacuate Rome, Civita Vecchia, and the posts adjacent, on condition that the troops should be sent to France ; that the allies of the republic should be allowed to depart unmolested ; and that no Roman citizen should be called to account for his conduct.

General Macdonald, having evacuated Naples and reached Florence, collected the scattered French forces throughout Tuscany, and finding himself at the head of 38,000 troops, he determined immediately to act on the offensive. After forcing the allies to raise the siege of Fort Urbino, he dispatched Olivier against Modena, of which he obtained possession on the 12th of June, and drove the Austrians beyond the Po ; while General Kray, alarmed at the progress of the enemy, drew off his heavy artillery from before Mantua, and posted himself in such a situation as to prevent that city from being relieved. Macdonald continued to advance, and having arrived at Piacenza, and formed a junction with General Victor, he obliged General Ott to fall back on the castle of Giovanni. As soon as Suworow had obtained intelligence of the victorious career of the French general, he proceeded to Alexandria, leaving General Kaim to prosecute the siege of Turin, and by forced marches arrived with

his advanced guard to the support of General Ott, who was in full retreat. At a village, six miles from Piacenza, a general engagement took place on the 17th, which, having been continued through the following days, terminated in favour of the allies. The vanquished army took advantage of the approach of night to retire in two columns to Piacenza, where four French generals, with several field-officers, and between 4 and 5000 soldiers, who had been wounded in the late murderous actions, were left behind, and fell into the hands of the enemy.

Moreau, taking advantage of Suworow's absence, left Genoa at the head of 29,000 men, and on the 20th of June attacked and beat Field-marshal Bellegarde, who had been left to superintend the blockade of Alexandria. The Russian field-marshal immediately abandoned the pursuit of Macdonald, and endeavoured by a rapid counter-march to overtake General Moreau, who, after fighting another battle, retreated within the Ligurian territory. Suworow, however, was consoled in this disappointment by the intelligence of the surrender of Turin on the 22d of June, and with the capture of Bologna, which fell into the hands of the allies eight days afterwards. Macdonald pursued his march towards Lucca, where he entered the Genoese territory, and formed a junction with Moreau. Thus ended an expedition, in which the French lost not less than 12,000 men.

Destitute of a covering army, the Italian fortresses were now obliged to yield to the besiegers. The surrender of Fort Urbino, St. Leon, and Alexandria, were followed by the capture of the almost impregnable fortress of Mantua on the 28th of July. Suworow, having now conquered the greater part of Italy, began to menace the southern departments of

France; but Moreau still occupied his formidable position in the neighbourhood of Genoa, and prevented the advance of the allies by threatening to fall upon their rear. The young men of the requisition were, at the same time, put in motion on the frontier, and Championnet was employed in assembling an army of 40,000 men in the vicinity of Grenoble. Supplies were also sent to the army of Italy, and the chief command of that force was transferred from General Moreau to General Joubert, who received orders to attempt the immediate relief of Tortona. In pursuance of this order, the French general advanced against the enemy at the head of 36,000 combatants, and encamped, on the 15th of August, upon the heights of Novi. The allies were superior in numbers; Suworow and Melas were at the head of 35,000 troops, of their respective nations; 15,000 Piedmontese, who had formerly obliged the garrison of Cevi to surrender, now acted as light troops; while General Kray entered the camp on that very day with 18,000 men, set at liberty by the fall of Mantua.

Suworow, determined to anticipate the French, whom he knew to be most formidable when they were the assailants, attacked their left wing. General Joubert, in advancing at the head of his staff, was struck with a ball, which pierced his heart; but the loss of their general diminished not the ardour of the soldiers: the allies were received every where with intrepidity. The two armies were engaged along the whole extent of their line, and though the slaughter was terrible, no impression was made on either side. Thrice did Suworow charge the centre of the enemy in person, at the head of his gallant veterans, and thrice was he repulsed by the French legions. Mo-

reau again took the command, but, in the mean time, General Melas, with the left wing of the allies, reached the heights of Novi on the side of Pietalle, and marching along the banks of the Serivia, completely succeeded in turning the right flank of the French army. This grand manœuvre decided the victory. The danger of being surrounded, compelled the French general to abandon the field of battle to the allies, who took four generals, and 4000 prisoners, with thirty-seven pieces of cannon, and fifty-seven tumbrils. The rear-guard of the enemy suffered much in the attempt to cover the retreat; and night alone enabled them to rally their scattered forces, and once more to occupy their former position near Genoa.

No sooner did the French cease to be formidable, than the fatal effects of jealousy began to be visible, both in the councils and in the camps of the two nations; and the suspicion and distrust of the armies had at length attained such an alarming height, that it was deemed impolitic to confine their exertions to the same theatre: it was consequently resolved, that Melas should continue the war in Italy, while the Russians, under Suworow, should enter Switzerland, and after defeating Massena, penetrate the territories of the French republic. The commencement of the campaign in Switzerland was peculiarly auspicious to the French, but their successes were of short duration, for in April Schaffhausen and Peterhausen fell into the hands of the Austrians, who, after a succession of engagements, established their head-quarters at Zurich on the 7th of June, and obliged Massena to retreat to Mount Albis. That general, however, having received fresh supplies of men and provisions, recommenced operations against the archduke; and a column of republicans, detached across the Limmat,

as that with which he was inspired, issued an official notification, addressed to all the members of the Germanic empire, calling upon them to unite their forces with his, and expressing his determination, if properly supported, never to sheath the sword till he had seen the downfall of the monster which threatened to crush all legal authorities. Scarcely had this declaration reached those to whom it was addressed, when Suworow, alike discontented with his allies and his colleagues, and tired of incessant combats, where valour was unavailing, and even victory was unattended with its usual advantages, collected the wreck of his army at Coire, ordered the remains of Koras-kow's troops, and the corps of Condé, to form a junction with him at that place, and, after some delay, proceeded to Bohemia, where he spent the winter. Of 100,000 men, who had either left Russia with him eight months before, or joined his army within that period, scarcely 50,000 reached the banks of the Lech. Thus the co-operation of Russia terminated, and Suworow, overwhelmed with grief and disappointment, retired to his native country, where he did not long survive the frowns of fortune. He was coldly received by the emperor, and died on the 18th of May, 1800, aged 71.

The French had become once more masters of Switzerland, had retaken St. Gothard, and begun to menace the country of the Grisons. - General Muller again penetrated into Germany, seized on Francfort, Mannheim, and Heidelberg, and threatened to lay all that portion of the empire under contribution.

No sooner had the Austrian army, under Melas, advanced into the neighbourhood of Coni, and prepared to lay siege to that fortress, than General Championnet, collecting his whole force, marched to

Savignano to give him battle, but on the 4th of November, a furious attack, directed against the column of General Grenier by General Ott, forced the republicans to retreat towards Genola, and the approach of night again saved the French army from ruin. The siege of Coni was now prosecuted with vigour, and on the 2d of January, 1800, the French commander agreed to capitulate, when 2500 republicans became prisoners of war. The success of the allied arms in Italy served to compensate the sovereigns of Europe for the losses they had this year sustained in other quarters; but on the whole, the campaign was less auspicious in its conclusion than at its commencement; and the defection of the Emperor of Russia damped the future expectations of the court of Vienna.

The English government, sensible of the importance of Holland, as a foe or a confederate, and aware that the exactions made upon the Dutch people by France had become a source of disaffection, determined on fitting out a formidable expedition, for the purpose of depriving the enemy of the resources drawn from the Batavian republic, and of restoring the Prince of Orange to the rank of stadtholder, and captain-general of the forces. After a long course of preparation, a descent was made, on the 27th of August, 1799, to the south-west of the Helder point, on the coast of North Holland. A body of 7000 men, French and Dutch, encountered the English, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who with difficulty gained the advantage. Above 1000 of the enemy were killed or wounded, and of the British about 450. It was the intention of Sir Ralph to attack the Helder fort the next morning; but it was evacuated in the night, and he found in it a considerable train of



artillery. A naval magazine was also abandoned; and thirteen ships of war, besides three Indiamen, were taken without resistance. Vice-admiral Mitchell then made judicious arrangements for entering the harbour of the Texel; and the approach of the vessels which he selected for that service astonished the Hollanders. Having summoned the commander of the Dutch fleet to hoist the flag of the Prince of Orange, and accept the friendship of Great Britain, he received an answer from Rear-admiral Story, promising to deliver up his squadron, as the men refused to fight. The ships were twelve in number, and eight of them mounted from fifty-four to seventy-four guns.

For several days the invading army had no other shelter than could be obtained by digging trenches in the sand; but they found better quarters in their progress. While they waited for the arrival of reinforcements, about 12,000 French and Dutch attacked them with vigour on the 10th of September; but so strong was the post of the Zuyp, and so firmly did the English defend it, that about 800 of the assailants were killed or wounded, while only 200 suffered on the part of their opponents. The guards distinguished themselves in this engagement, and made great impression on a column of French. The Duke of York now landed with three brigades, and a Russian army also disembarked. As the allied army amounted to 35,000 men, the duke and General d'Hermann ventured upon a speedy action. The Russians, by an impetuous onset, September the 19th, made great havoc, and pushed forward to Bergen; Abercrombie's column penetrated to Hoórn; and the two other columns were successful in their attacks; but the rash confidence of the Russians exposed them to such

danger, that the retreat of the whole force soon became necessary. About 3000 of the enemy are said to have been made prisoners, and 2000 were killed or wounded; of the British soldiers above 1000 were killed, wounded, or captured; and of the Russians about 2000.

When the weather permitted, the army moved forward, in four columns, to the battle of Egmont, on the 2d of October. The English and Russians were commanded by Generals Abercrombie, d'Essen, Dundas, and Pulteney. The hostile force consisted of 25,000 men, of which number about three-fifths were French, who were under the orders of General Brune, while Daendels had the command of the Dutch. The main body of the first column did not meet with great resistance in the early part of the day; but when Sir Ralph approached Egmont, he was warmly opposed by a strong corps of French infantry, who were supported by a considerable body of cavalry, and a train of artillery upon the beach. A part of the same column, under Colonel Macdonald, had driven the enemy from Campe and the neighbouring sand hills; and some brigades of the second and third divisions forced Schorel and other posts. The vicinity of Bergen was a scene of brisk conflict. The brigades of Major-general Coote and the Earl of Chatham charged the enemy in flank and rear, and produced a confused retreat; but they could not prevent their adversaries from re-occupying the village in force, though they defended with effect some heights which they had seized. Colonel Macdonald being closely engaged with a resolute body, Lieutenant-general Dundas sent a corps to assist that officer, and thus enabled him to proceed to the aid of Sir Ralph, who had been contending for some

hours with a very superior force. At length the cavalry were baffled in an attack upon the British artillery, and being charged with spirit by Lord Paget, were driven towards Egmont with considerable loss. The evening put an end to the engagement, and the troops rested upon their arms. At day-break, the retreat of the enemy gave the English and Russians an opportunity of taking several posts; but though they pushed forward for that purpose, they were precluded by fatigue from effectually harassing the republican troops. The killed and wounded of the British amounted to about 1550; of the Russians about 600 suffered or were captured, and of the French and Dutch the loss exceeded 3000. The English officers seem to have been marked out, as an unusual proportion received wounds.

The enemy having taken a very strong position, and being in expectation of a reinforcement, the Duke of York resolved upon another attack before the erection of new works, and when he had no knowledge of the arrival of fresh troops to oppose him. The Russians had a greater share in this action of the 6th of October, than in the preceding; and they were so vigorously resisted, that Sir Ralph Abercrombie was obliged to advance with a strong body to their relief. The whole hostile force then put itself in motion, and the action, which became general along the line, from Limmen to the sea, terminated to the honour of the invaders, as they were left masters of the field, but the loss on both sides was very severe, and the enemy, who soon after received a reinforcement of 6000 troops, maintained their position between Beverwyck and Wyck-op-Zee.

The allied army now found itself placed in a situ-

ation so critical as to require the greatest military talents, united with the most mature experience, to direct its future operations. Directly opposite lay the enemy, in a position almost impregnable, and rendered confident by the accession of strength just received. A naked, barren, and exhausted country, scarcely affording shelter for the wounded, extended all around. The right wing of the allied army was indeed protected by the ocean; but a considerable body of troops, occupying an almost inaccessible position, threatened the left. The weather, too, since the evening of the 6th of October, had set in with increased inclemency; and it was with extreme difficulty that the urgent necessities of the troops could be supplied. To these complicated evils the whole army lay exposed on the unsheltered sand-hills of North Holland, while the stadtholderian party remained inactive, and apparently indifferent to the success of the common cause. Under these circumstances, the Duke of York, in the evening of the 7th, the night being extremely dark, and the rain descending in torrents, issued an unexpected order for the troops to assemble, and at ten o'clock the whole army was in full retreat towards Pellen and Alkmaar. As they could not, however, be embarked in the face of a superior army without considerable loss, the Duke of York and Admiral Mitchell entered into a negotiation with General Brune, and on the 17th of October an armistice was agreed upon, in which it was stipulated, that the combined English and Russian army should evacuate the territories of the Batavian republic by the 30th of November; that the Dutch admiral, De Winter, should be considered as exchanged; that the mounted batteries at the Helder should be restored in their present state; that 8000

prisoners of war, French and Batavians, taken before the present campaign, and now detained in England, should be restored without conditions to their respective countries; and that Major-general Knox should remain with the French to guaranty the execution of this convention. \

These terms were doubtless humiliating, but the proposition of restoring the Batavian fleet surrendered by Admiral Story, and which was at first advanced by General Brune, was received with just indignation; and the duke threatened, in case of perseverance in this point, to cut the sea-dykes, and inundate the whole country. Thus ended the expedition against Holland, whence so many advantages had been anticipated: but though the military and political objects of it failed, a hostile fleet, the last remnant of the maritime power of a nation which once rivalled Britain on the ocean, was drawn from a position where it was capable of exciting alarm, and added to the already gigantic force of the British navy. Nearly 4000 Dutch deserters were brought to England with the British troops, who were embarked without delay; and the Russians were landed and quartered in Guernsey and Jersey.

In the West Indies, this year, the flourishing settlement of Surinam was wrested from the hands of the Dutch. A body of troops, collected in the islands of Grenada, St. Lucie, and Martinico, by Lieutenant-general Trigge, were embarked on board a small squadron, consisting of two line of battle ships and five frigates, under the command of Vice-admiral Lord Hugh Seymour. On their arrival off the mouth of the river Surinam, Governor Frederici capitulated, on the 20th of August, without firing a gun. The British navy, during the whole of this year, did not

lose a single vessel of war; while twenty frigates, corvettes, and luggers, belonging to France, and ten to Spain, were either taken or run on shore. The Dutch navy may be said to have been annihilated. In addition to the ships of war seized by Admiral Mitchell in the Nieuve Diep, and the Texel, the Batavian republic lost a forty gun-ship, the Hortog Van Brunswick, in the Straits of Sunda; and as the sailors were obviously disaffected to the new government, all further exertions by sea, on the part of that power, were interdicted.

The French directory, which had long been in the enjoyment of supreme power, was rapidly verging towards its dissolution, when Buonaparte arrived from Egypt, and was received in Paris with every possible demonstration of public favour. The Abbe Sieyes, constantly intriguing, was secretly gratified with the popularity enjoyed by Buonaparte, and after disclosing to him certain projects which he entertained, solicited his powerful aid, for the purpose of carrying them into execution. At five o'clock in the morning of the 18th Brumaire, (November 9,) by a manœuvre of the conspirators, in the council of ancients, it was proposed, without communicating with the Directory, that the assembly should adjourn to St. Cloud; that General Buonaparte should be charged to put the decree in execution; and that for that purpose he should be appointed commander of all the forces; which being passed by a great majority, the sitting was then dissolved. Buonaparte instantly issued two proclamations, announcing his appointment to the command of the city guard, and of the army, and inviting them to support their general in his endeavours to restore to the public the blessing of liberty, victory, and peace. He then marched 10,000 troops

to the Thuilleries, and guarded every avenue to that place so effectually, that no one was permitted to pass. Three of the directors, and all the citizens of Paris, were, for the first time, acquainted with the proceedings that had taken place by the proclamations with which the walls of the capital soon became placarded. The director, Barras, who had refused to give in his resignation, was exiled to his country seat under a guard of cavalry, while Goheir and Moulins remained almost passive spectators of the events which deprived them of power, and imposed a new form of government upon their country. In the mean time, the council of Five Hundred had assembled, filled with astonishment and distrust, and although Lucien Buonaparte, brother to the general, was at this time its president, an uproar arose on the entrance of the latter, in which even his life was endangered, until General Lefebvre at length rushed into the hall with a body of armed grenadiers, and rescued their chief from the dangers with which he was environed. The members instantly decreed that the council of ancients had no power to invest Buonaparte with the command, as that authority could be conferred by the Directory alone, and an outlawry was proposed; but the president refused to pronounce the decree against his brother, and quitted the chair. Immediately pistols and poniards were presented to his breast, to compel him to resume his office, but he remained inflexible until the military arrived to his protection. The chamber was soon cleared of the members of the council, and cries of "Long live the republic!" "Long live Buonaparte!" sent forth by the military, shook the lofty domes of St. Cloud. The first imperfect intelligence of these events had filled the metropolis with apprehension, but no sooner were the

circumstances attending this military usurpation made known, than the Parisians appeared overjoyed at the final subversion of the jacobin power, and cherished the hope of a new and better government.

The existing constitution being dissolved, a provisional government was appointed, consisting of three consuls, Sieyes, Ducos, and Buonaparte, who were invested with the full powers of the Directory, and, on the following day, entered upon the public functions at the palace of the Luxembourg. The legislative commissioners at the same time commenced their sittings. In forming the new administration, Lucien Buonaparte was constituted minister of the interior, and M. Talleyrand reinstated in his office of minister for foreign affairs. A new constitution was shortly after submitted to the French nation, and almost unanimously approved. It consisted of an executive composed of three consuls, one bearing the title of chief, and in fact possessing all the authority; a conservative senate, composed of eighty members, appointed for life, and nominated by the consuls; and a legislative body of 300 members, with a tribunate of 100. Buonaparte was nominated first or chief consul for a term of ten years.

The new sovereign of France, as he had now in effect become, finding himself quietly placed in possession of supreme power, and of the palace of the Bourbons, addressed a letter to the King of Great Britain, on Christmas day, for the purpose of entering on a negotiation for peace. "Called by the wishes of the French nation," said he, "to occupy the first magistracy of the republic, I think it proper, on entering into office, to make a direct communication of it to your Majesty. The war which has for eight years ravaged the four quarters of the world, must it



be eternal? Are there no means of coming to an understanding? How can the two most enlightened nations of Europe, powerful and strong beyond what their safety and independence require, sacrifice to ideas of vain grandeur, commerce, prosperity, and peace? How is it that they do not feel that peace is of the first importance, as well as the highest glory? These sentiments cannot be foreign to the heart of your Majesty, who reigns over a free nation with the sole view of rendering it happy. Your Majesty will see in this overture my sincere wish to contribute efficaciously, for the second time, to a general pacification, by a step speedy, entirely of confidence, and disengaged from those forms which, perhaps necessary to disguise the independence of weak states, prove, in those that are strong, only the desire of deceiving each other. France and England, by the abuse of their strength, may still for a long time, for the misfortune of all nations, retard the period of their being exhausted; but I will venture to say it, the fate of all civilized nations is attached to the termination of a war which involves the whole world."

The British government took some time to consider what would be the proper answer to give to an application, at once so unexpected and so unprecedented, both in form and substance; and at length, on the 4th of January, 1800, a letter was sent by Lord Grenville to Talleyrand, containing an official note, in which it was observed, that the King had given frequent proofs of his sincere desire for the re-establishment of secure and permanent tranquillity in Europe. He never was, nor had been, engaged in any contest for a vain and false glory. He had no other view than that of maintaining, against all trans-

gression, the rights and happiness of his subjects. For these he had contended against an unprovoked attack, and, for the same objects, he was still obliged to contend; nor could he hope that this necessity would be removed by entering, at the present moment, into negociation with those whom a fresh revolution had so recently placed in the exercise of power in France; since no real advantage could arise from such negociation to the great and desirable object of general peace, until it should distinctly appear, that those causes had ceased to operate which originally produced the war, and by which it had since been protracted, and, in more than one instance, renewed. The same system, to the prevalence of which France justly ascribed all her present miseries, was that which had also involved the rest of Europe in a long and destructive warfare, of a nature long since unknown to the practice of civilized nations. For the extension of this system, and for the extermination of all established governments, the resources of France had, from year to year, and in the midst of the most unparalleled distress, been lavished and exhausted. To that indiscriminate spirit of destruction, the Netherlands, the United Provinces, the Swiss Cantons, (his Majesty's ancient friends and allies,) had successively been sacrificed. Germany had been ravaged; Italy, though then rescued from its invaders, had been made the scene of unbounded rapine and anarchy. His Majesty had himself been compelled to maintain an arduous and burdensome contest for the independence and existence of his kingdom. Nor had these calamities been confined to Europe alone; they had been extended to the most distant quarters of the world, and to countries so remote, both in situation and interest, from the present contest, that the very existence

of such a war was perhaps unknown to those who found themselves suddenly involved in all its horrors. While such a system continued to prevail, experience had shown that no defence, but that of open and steady hostility, could be availing. Greatly, indeed, would his Majesty rejoice, whenever it should appear that the dangers to which his own dominions, and those of his allies, had been so long exposed, had really ceased; whenever he should be satisfied, that the necessity of resistance was at an end; that after the experience of so many years of crimes and miseries, better principles had ultimately prevailed in France; and that all the gigantic projects of ambition, and all the restless schemes of destruction, which had endangered the very existence of civil society, had, at length been finally relinquished; but the conviction of such a change could result only from experience, and from the evidence of facts. The best and most natural pledge of its reality and permanence would be the restoration of that line of princes which, for so many centuries, maintained the French nation in prosperity at home, and in consideration and respect abroad; such an event would at once have removed, and would, at any time, remove all obstacles in the way of negotiation for peace. His Majesty made no claim to prescribe to France what should be the form of her government, or in whose hands she should vest the authority necessary for conducting the affairs of a great and powerful nation: he looked only to the security of his own dominions, and those of his allies, and to the general safety of Europe. Whenever he should judge that such security could, in any manner, be obtained, he would eagerly embrace the opportunity to concert with his allies the means of immediate and general pacification.

In the reply to this answer of the British cabinet, dated the 14th of January, Buonaparte renewed the assertion, that France was not the aggressor in the war ; that, so far from having provoked it, she had, from the commencement of her revolution, solemnly proclaimed her love of peace, her disinclination to conquests, and her respect for the independence of all governments ; and it was not to be doubted that, occupied entirely at that time with her own internal affairs, she would have avoided taking part in those of Europe, and would have remained faithful to her declarations. But, from an opposite disposition, as soon as the French revolution had broken out, almost all Europe had entered into a league for its destruction. Assailed on all sides, the republic could not but extend universally the efforts of her defence ; and it was only for the maintenance of her own independence that she had made use of those means which she possessed, in her own strength, and the courage of her citizens.

In the answer which Lord Grenville forwarded on the 20th of January, the King expressed his concern in observing, that the unprovoked aggressions of France, the sole cause and origin of the war, were systematically defended by her present ruler, under the same injurious pretences by which they were originally attempted to be disguised. His Majesty refused to enter into the refutation of allegations then universally exploded, and, in so far as they respected his conduct, not only in themselves utterly groundless, but contradicted, both by the internal evidence of the transactions to which they related, and also by the express testimony (given at the time) of the government of France itself. The French minister was

referred to the first note of the British government for his Majesty's opinion of the present overtures.

Parliament had assembled at the early period of the 24th of September, 1799, and having passed a bill for engrafting a large proportion of the militia into the regular army, adjourned to the 21st of January following. After the adjournment, the first subject of importance that engaged the attention of Parliament, was the correspondence which had recently taken place between the British and French governments. Ministers inquired what possible advantage could result from a negotiation with France at this moment, and asked whether the consular government presented a greater certainty of a favourable termination of a treaty, than any of the revolutionary governments which had preceded it: the minority, on the other hand, animadverted on the precipitation of ministers, in closing the door at once to all hopes of pacification. The rejection of the overtures made by the first consul was, however, approved by decided majorities in both Houses; and it was accordingly determined to carry on the war on a large and extensive scale. To enable the allies to bring the greatest possible number of troops into the field, negotiations were immediately entered into with the emperor, the Duke of Wirtemberg, and the Elector of Bavaria: the army of Condé, and the Swiss regiment of Rovera, were also taken into the pay of England; and it was proposed, and agreed to by Parliament, to enable the treasury to advance the sum of 500,000*l.* until the subsidiary treaties had been signed and adjusted.

On the 28th of February, Mr. Tierney moved  
“ that it is the opinion of this House, that it is unjust

and unnecessary to continue the war for the purpose of restoring monarchy in France." Ministers indignantly repelled the insinuation conveyed in these terms, and denied that the restoration of monarchy was the object of the war; they opposed, however, Mr. Tierney's motion, which was negatived by a very large majority, as were two other motions of similar tendency in the course of the session. The late expedition to Holland became another subject of inquiry; and on the 10th of February, Mr. Sheridan prefaced a motion for examining into the causes of its failure by a very copious speech, in which he acquitted the commander-in-chief, the officers, and the army, who had been sent to the Helder, of all blame; and attributed their misfortunes solely to the impolicy and rashness of ministers. Mr. Dundas insisted on the advantages which had accrued to Britain from the Dutch expedition, particularly the capture of the Dutch fleet, and the diversion of the French arms from the Upper Rhine to Holland: he objected to the motion, however, on more general grounds, as it consigned to Parliament the task of publicly criticising military operations, which was not their duty or department. Such investigations, he contended, could produce no good, and would only clog and harass the measures of government. Mr. Sheridan's motion was negatived by 216 against 45; and a similar motion, introduced by Lord Holland, in the Upper House, was also negatived by a large majority.

The military and naval forces appointed for the service of the year 1800, were nearly the same as in 1799. Mr. Pitt, in detailing the means for raising this supply, estimated the income tax at 5,300,000*l.* exclusive of 1,700,000*l.* appropriated to the payment

of interest for 32,500,000*l.* but he expressed the strongest expectation that it would turn out to a better account. He had negotiated a loan of 18,500,000*l.* the consolidated fund he reckoned at about 4,000,000*l.* exchequer bills 3,000,000*l.* and an advance of 3,000,000*l.* bearing no interest for six years, from the Bank, as a premium for the renewal of the charter for twenty-one years, with the incidental sources of revenue, made up the required sum of 39,500,000*l.* These financial proposals, which underwent a variety of strictures from the vigilant observation of Mr. Tierney, were ultimately carried.

Mr. Pitt having moved, on the 17th of February, for an advance of 500,000*l.* to the Emperor of Germany, it was opposed with great energy by Mr. Tierney, who conjured the House to recollect that the war had now continued seven years, at the expense of 200,000,000*l.* on the pretext of its being just and necessary. Just it could not be, if the object of it were to force upon the French nation the restoration of the Bourbons; nor necessary, because we had refused to negotiate when the opportunity was presented to us. If this sum were granted, much larger demands would follow; and thus we were to lavish our blood and treasure in a cause for which no satisfactory or intelligible reason could be assigned, and he defied the ministers to name one. Mr. Pitt declared that he found no difficulty in stating the object of the war in a single sentence, nay, even in a single word—*security*. It was also more than this: it was security against a danger the greatest that had ever threatened the world: a danger which never existed before in any period of society; which had been felt and resisted by all the nations of Europe, but by none so successfully and uniformly as our own. Our

resistance had not been confined to external force, it had joined internal policy and wise legislative measures, to oppose jacobinism in the bosom (he was sorry to have found it there) of our own country. How was it discovered that jacobinism had disappeared in France? It was now centred in one man, nursed in its school, who had gained celebrity under its auspices, and was at once the child and the champion of its atrocities. Granting that 200,000,000*l.* had been expended for the words "just and necessary," they had been expended, he said, for the best of causes, to protect the dearest rights, to defend the most valuable privileges, the laws, the liberties, the happiness of our country; and, for such objects, as much more would we spend, and as much more could we find.

On the annual motion for the renewal of the Habeas Corpus suspension act, that opposition ensued in both Houses which might be expected to the continuance of an infringement of constitutional liberty, the necessity of which was yearly becoming less apparent: the argument, however, that it was not prudent to lay aside safeguards, and perhaps the habit for some years past of acquiescing in the call of ministers for the suspension, caused the motion to pass by majorities as decisive as before. A bill for continuing the act for the better securing and punishing such persons as should attempt to seduce his Majesty's subjects from their allegiance, was also passed about the same time.

On the 15th of January, 1800, the Irish Parliament met at Dublin; and, on the 5th of February, a message from the Lord-Lieutenant intimated the King's desire that the resolutions passed by the Parliament of Great Britain should be submitted to the attentive



consideration of the Irish legislature ; and expressed his hope that the great object to which they related might be matured and completed by the wisdom of the two Parliaments, and the loyal concurrence of the people. On this occasion, the secretary of state, Lord Castlereagh, to whose management the business was intrusted, entered into a comprehensive view of the measure proposed, recommending it by arguments analogous to those of Mr. Pitt, and other advocates of the union in the British Parliament. On moving the first resolution, after a vehement debate, the numbers were, in favour of the measure 158, against it 115. The tumults of the populace of Dublin were upon this occasion very alarming ; and a military guard was found necessary to preserve the advocates of the union from personal violence. In the House of Peers, the Earl of Clare, late Lord Fitzgibbon, Chancellor of Ireland, on moving the first resolution, declared himself satisfied, from an attentive observation of what had passed in Ireland for the last twenty years, that the existence of her independent Parliament had gradually led to her recent and bitter calamities ; and avowed that he had, for the preceding seven years, pressed upon ministers the urgent necessity of union. Lords Dillon, Powerscourt, Farnham, and Bellamont declared their disapprobation of the measure ; which was defended by the law lords, Carleton and Kilwarden, and various other peers ; after which the question upon the first resolution was put, and carried by 75 against 26 voices. The succeeding resolutions were in the course of a few weeks passed through this House with the same or greater facility. In the course of these debates three different protests, drawn with vigour and ability, were entered upon the journals, signed by the Duke of Leinster,

the Marquis of Downshire, the Lords Pery and Moira, the Bishop of Down, and about twenty other peers, expressive of their highest indignation at these proceedings. On the 17th of February, the House of Commons being in a general committee, Mr. Corry, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made an able speech in vindication of the measure, blended, however, agreeably to the too frequent custom of the Irish Parliament, with virulent party and personal reflections. The reply of Mr. Grattan, who had opposed the measure throughout with all the powers of eloquence, was so pointed and severe, that the chancellor thought proper to resent it by a challenge, and a duel ensued, in which five shots were exchanged; and Mr. Corry was wounded, though not dangerously. On the 27th of March, the whole business being completed, Lord Castlereagh moved an address to his Majesty from the Commons, declaring their approbation of the resolutions transmitted to them, which they considered as wisely calculated to form the basis of a complete and entire union of the two legislatures; that by those propositions they had been guided in their proceedings; and that the resolutions now offered were those articles, which, if approved by the Lords and Commons of Great Britain, they were ready to confirm and ratify, in order that the same might be established for ever by the mutual consent of both Parliaments. This address being agreed to by the two Houses, was immediately transmitted to England by Lord Cornwallis.

On the 2d of April, the joint address of the Irish legislature was the subject of a message from his Majesty to both Houses of the British Parliament. The measure was opposed, in the House of Peers, by Lord Holland; but, on a division, only the Earl of

Derby, and the Lords Holland and King, voted against the motion, whilst 82 supported it. In the Commons, Mr. Pitt discussed the particular manner of carrying the measure into effect. As to the propriety of allowing 100 Irish members to sit in the imperial Parliament, though the particular number might not be of the first importance, he thought it sufficiently suited to the proportional contribution of the two countries to the public exigencies of the empire, and the selection was rather calculated to favour the popular interest. The members for counties and principal cities would be sixty-eight, the rest would be deputed by towns the most considerable in population and wealth, thus providing at once for the security of the landed interest, and for the convenience of local information; and as the proposed addition would not make any change in the internal form of British representation, it would entail none of those dangers which might attend innovation. It would not expose us to the dangers of political experiments, under the specious name of reform; experiments which, whatever his opinion respecting reform might once have been, he was now convinced would be hazardous in the present circumstances. As it might be wished that very few of the members thus sent from Ireland should hold places under the crown, he proposed that the number entitled to be placemen should be limited to twenty, and that the imperial Parliament should afterwards regulate this point, as circumstances might suggest. The number of peers who should represent the whole body of the Irish nobility was fixed at thirty-two. Four would suffice to inform the Parliament of the state of the church; and the rest would form a fair proportion, considered with reference to the case of Scotland, and the num-

ber of the Irish commoners. The election of the temporal peers for life, he recommended as more conformable to the spirit of nobility, than that which was settled at the Scotch union. The right reserved for Irish peers to sit in the House of Commons, as representatives for Great Britain, would render them fitter to serve their country when called to a higher assembly. The permission of creating new peers for Ireland he also justified; for though in Scotland the peerage might long maintain itself without any accession, from the great extent of inheritance allowed by the patents, there was a risk of the Irish peerage fast diminishing, on account of the very limited nature of the successions. In the article respecting the church, he noticed the clause introduced by the Parliament of Ireland, providing for the presence of the clergy of that country at convocations which might be held in this island, and the propriety of leaving to the imperial legislature the discussion of the claims of the Catholics to future emancipation. The next article, he observed, would grant a general freedom of trade, with only such exceptions as might secure vested capital, and prevent a great shock to any particular manufacture, or to popular fears and prejudices. It was stipulated, that almost all prohibitions should be repealed, and that only protecting duties to a small amount should be imposed on some few articles. If the British manufacturers should sustain partial loss in consequence of any of the new regulations, their liberality would induce them to consider it as compensated by general advantage.

Mr. Grey strenuously opposed the plan of the union. His principal objections were founded on its unpopularity among the Irish people; on the means of corruption and intimidation which had been used

to accomplish the measure ; and the great dissimilarity between the case of Ireland and that of Scotland, with respect to incorporating with England ; an argument which he chiefly directed against those supporters of the measure who had ascribed the progress of Scottish prosperity to the dissolution of her native Parliament. His motion, however, for limiting the number of Irish placemen, who should sit in the united Parliament, to nineteen, instead of twenty, was negatived without a division. Early in May, the remaining articles having been severally investigated, and approved by decisive majorities, Mr. Pitt moved that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, acquainting him that the House had proceeded through the great and important measure of a legislative union, which they had the satisfaction to see was nearly in strict conformity with the principle laid down in his Majesty's message. This was carried without a division ; and the address and resolutions being forthwith transmitted to the House of Peers, the assent of that assembly was obtained without any material alteration. A joint address, as usual on great occasions, was presented to the throne, and a bill, grounded upon the resolutions, to take effect from the 1st of January, 1801, the first day of the 19th century, immediately passed through both Houses. On the 2d of July the royal assent was given to this important bill ; and on the 29th the session was terminated by a speech from the throne, in which his Majesty expressed the peculiar satisfaction with which he congratulated the two Houses of Parliament, on the success of the steps they had taken for effecting an entire union between the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, declaring that he should ever consider this measure as the happiest event of

his reign. The Irish session also, which had been prolonged till the union bill passed in England, in order to its ratification with the several alterations and additions made by the British Parliament, with other necessary regulations respecting the election of the Irish representatives to the imperial legislature, was terminated on the 2d of August, and with it the existence of the Parliament of Ireland.

At this period a scarcity of corn caused great and general alarm. The harvest of the two preceding years had been very unproductive, and the evil being enhanced by the consumption and waste of war, a prodigious rise on every article of provision took place, the consequence of which was very wide spread and real distress. The interference of the legislature, in attempting to remedy, or at least to palliate, the public calamity, was judiciously confined to recommendatory, rather than to coercive measures. The committee appointed to deliberate upon the subject, suggested such methods of relief as appeared most effectual for diminishing the consumption of corn by economy and substitution, and held out encouragement to the extended growth of potatoes at home, and the importation of corn from foreign countries. The committee at the same time suggested the granting of bounties for the encouragement of fisheries, and proposed the temporary but entire disuse of corn in the distilleries. To give effect to the proceedings of the legislature on this important subject, his Majesty issued a proclamation, towards the close of the present year, recommending the greatest economy and frugality in the use of every species of grain, and exhorting and charging all masters of families to reduce the consumption of bread in their respective families, by at least one-third of the quantity con-

sumed in ordinary times, and in no case to suffer the same to exceed one quartern loaf for each person in each week.

Another insane attempt on the life of the King was made this year, from which he providentially escaped. On the 15th of May, just at the moment when he had entered the royal box at Drury Lane Theatre, and while bowing to the audience with his usual condescension, a person who sat near the middle of the pit rose up and fired a horse pistol, apparently at his Majesty. For some seconds the house remained in silent suspense, but no sooner had they begun to recover from their surprise, than the man who fired the pistol, and who proved to be a discharged soldier of the name of Hadfield, was secured. On the 26th of June he was arraigned for high-treason; but it was clearly proved that he had for some years laboured under a degree of insanity, in consequence of several desperate sabre wounds in his head, which he had received when acting as a sergeant in the British army in Holland, in 1794: he was therefore pronounced "Not guilty, being under the influence of insanity at the time the act was done;" but he was very properly ordered to be kept in custody.

## CHAPTER XXV.

**AFTER** the unexpected discomfiture of the Russian army at the close of the last campaign, and the consequent triumph of the French arms in Switzerland, a total change took place in the command and disposition of the allied forces. The Russian emperor, Paul, little inclined to listen to a calm investigation

of facts, and easily led away by the hasty impulses of passion, having conceived an insuperable disgust at the unexpected disasters which had befallen his troops in Switzerland and in Holland, had recalled his whole army from the scene of action. The Archduke Charles too, who gave fair promise of emulating the example of the most renowned warriors, had, by the crooked policy and ruinous influence of the Aulic Council, which had controuled his operations, and thwarted his views, been deprived of the command of the Austrian troops; and they were now led by the veteran General Kray in Germany, while Melas continued to command the imperial force employed in Italy. The first operation of any consequence was the siege of Genoa by the Austrians, who were assisted by an English squadron under the command of Lord Keith. Massena defended the city with a vigour and resolution which have seldom been surpassed, and after a series of actions, attended with the loss of many thousand lives on both sides, famine alone induced him to enter into a treaty, which was concluded on terms honourable to the defenders, and, on the 4th of June, Genoa was evacuated. In the mean time Buonaparte collected a powerful army of reserve in the plains of Burgundy, of which he took the command early in May, and immediately prepared for crossing that formidable mountain, the Great St. Bernard. Having effected the passage, although a design so vast had not been attempted since the days of Hannibal, he pursued his march into Italy, and clearing all obstacles, obtained possession of Milan and Pavia. Crossing the Po, he defeated the Austrians at Montebello, and on the 16th of June, on the plain between Alessandria and Tortona, was fought the famous battle of Marengo. Here



he vigour of the Austrians seemed long to promise victory to their efforts. They turned the wings of the French, and forced the centre to fall back ; and Melas even flattered himself with the hope of cutting off the retreat of the disordered troops. But when the chief consul, who was in the heat of action, almost despaired of success, General Desaix appeared with a *corps de reserve*, and changed the fortune of the day ; he fell, however, in the attempt. A new line was formed ; the Austrians were checked in their career ; and, though they still exhibited marks of obstinate courage, they were at length totally routed. In this memorable battle, which might well decide the fate of Italy, about 10,000 of their number were killed, wounded, or made prisoners, but not without a loss equally severe on the part of the conquerors. This defeat ruined the hopes of the emperor, and was followed by a proposal from the vanquished general for an armistice, which he purchased by the restitution of Genoa, and the surrender of the citadels of Milan, Turin, Tortona, and other fortresses. Buonaparte then went to Milan to re-establish the Cisalpine republic, which he declared a free and independent nation.

The French army under Moreau had entered Suabia at the latter end of April, where it was opposed by General Kray. After various movements of little importance, they at length compelled the Austrians to retire, and, entering Bavaria, took possession of Munich, levied contributions on the elector, and threatened the hereditary states of the emperor. Thus pressed, the Austrians deemed it expedient to consent to an armistice, (that in Italy not extending to Germany) which was concluded with Moreau on the 15th of July. Count St. Julien was sent to

Paris by the Austrian court, where he signed preliminaries of peace with France on the basis of the treaty of Campo Formio, but the emperor, having entered into a new compact with Great Britain, by which it was agreed that neither party should conclude a peace which did not comprehend the other, formally disavowed it, and refused to conclude any treaty, unless England was included in it. At the beginning of September a proposal was made through M. Otto, the French commissary, residing in London, to the British ministers, for concluding a naval armistice, on which condition alone the first consul would consent to prolong the one with Austria, and a long correspondence took place on the subject, but it evidently appearing that the only object of Buonaparte was to obtain an opportunity of sending supplies to Malta and Alexandria, both of which were strictly blockaded by an English squadron, and as a new armistice was, during the negotiation, concluded with Austria, on condition of the surrender of the three important fortresses of Philipsburgh, Ulm, and Ingoldstadt, into the hands of the French, who thus secured an opening into the hereditary states of Austria, the proposal was ultimately rejected on the 9th of October. This armistice terminated on the 29th of November, when Moreau resumed offensive operations, and the Archduke John at first obtained some advantage, but in a general attack on the lines at Hohenlinden, on the 3d of December, the Austrians were entirely defeated, and in consequence the French gained possession of Salzburg. In the space of twenty days from the recommencement of hostilities, the Austrians lost 40,000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners, while that of the French was comparatively small.

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The Archduke Charles, who now took the supreme command, seeing no hope of an effectual resistance, proposed another armistice, which was agreed to, and the alarming situation of the emperor having induced the British government to release him from the terms of his alliance, a definitive treaty of peace was signed at Luneville on the 9th of February, 1801, by which France obtained a cession of all the German territories on the left bank of the Rhine, making that river, from the place where it leaves Switzerland to that where it enters Holland, the boundary of the new republic ; thus realizing the original projects of the first revolutionists. The acquisition of this territory destroyed one of the chief barriers against the encroachments of France in the north of Europe. But, that no doubt might be left of the determination of France to overawe the empire, by the continual fear of hostile incursions into Germany, the restitution of Dusseldorf, Ehrenbreitstein, Philipsburgh, Cassel, Kehl, and Brisac, on the right bank of the Rhine, were rendered of little value, by a stipulation that they should remain in the same state in which they were at the moment of their evacuation, that is, in ruins. France, therefore, retained the power of interposition in the affairs of Germany, by the right which she had reserved to herself by this treaty, to settle the indemnities to be secured to the German princes, who were proprietors of the territory ceded to her on the left bank of the Rhine, and by her ability, in consequence of these cessions, to make sudden irruptions into the heart of the hereditary states of Austria. Istria, Dalmatia, and the Venetian isles in the Adriatic, were secured to Austria, together with Venice, the Bocca di Cattaro, the canals and the country included between the heredi-

tary states of Austria, the Adriatic sea, and the Adige, from the Tyrol to the mouth of that sea; the towing-path of the Adige to form the line of limitation. France took to herself, and for her vassal, the Italian republic, or kingdom, as it was soon destined to be, the dominions of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the Modenese, whose sovereigns were to be indemnified for the territory thus iniquitously wrested from them, by other territories to be wrested, in a manner equally iniquitous, from the sovereign princes of Germany.

After Buonaparte's flight from Egypt, General Kleber entered into a convention, at El Arish, with the commander of the Turkish forces, by which he agreed to evacuate that country, on the condition of the unmolested return of the French troops to Europe. This convention, which was signed on the 24th of January, having been referred to Sir Sidney Smith by the Turks, it received his sanction; but as soon as the British cabinet were apprized of the agreement, without being informed that Sir Sidney had any share in the transaction, they considered that it would be highly impolitic to suffer such a French force to arrive in Europe, to reinforce the armies acting against the emperor, their ally, and therefore instructed Lord Keith, the commander of the British fleet in the Mediterranean, not to ratify it. That admiral accordingly sent a letter to Kleber, acquainting him that he had received positive orders not to agree to any capitulation with the troops under his command, unless they should consent to surrender themselves prisoners of war, not to go to France until exchanged, and to deliver up all the ships and stores in the port of Alexandria. Kleber, indignant at this unexpected turn of affairs, apprized the Turks that

there was an end to the convention ; after which hostilities were renewed, and some considerable advantages were gained by the French. After dispersing the army of the grand vizier, and quelling an insurrection in Cairo, he was assassinated by a Turkish emissary, and was succeeded in his authority by General Menou.

In consequence of our unrivalled dominion on the ocean, it appears to have been in agitation, at the commencement of the campaign, to make a powerful diversion in favour of the allies, by means of an irruption into the southern provinces of France ; but the sudden return and singularly good fortune of Buonaparte prevented the execution of this design. In the course of the summer, however, the western departments were frequently menaced by the appearance of hostile armaments. Sir Edward Pellew, in the *Impetueux*, with a flying squadron, and three troop ships, made an attack on Quiberon on the 4th of June, in which some batteries were destroyed, but Fort Penthievre proved too strong to be reduced. The same commander also, in an attempt upon the Morbihan, seized several sloops and gun-vessels, and burnt a corvette. Sir John Borlase Warren likewise succeeded in an attack on a convoy at anchor near a fort within the Penmarks, and in the destruction of fifteen sail of merchantmen and four armed vessels within the sands of Boverneuf bay. These exploits, combined with many others of a similar nature, put an actual stop to the coasting trade of the enemy, and intercepted the supplies of wine, brandy, flour, and provisions, intended for the fleet at Brest.

In August an expedition was fitted out, under the command of Sir James Murray Pulteney, and Sir John Borlase Warren, whose first destination was

against the Spanish port of Ferrol. After the troops were landed, however, the place was found too strong to be attacked with any prospect of success, and the attempt was therefore relinquished. A more formidable force, both naval and military, was sent against Cadiz, under Lord Keith and Sir Ralph Abercrombie, but as a pestilent disorder raged in the city, daily destroying numbers of the inhabitants; as it was, nevertheless, capable of making a long resistance; and, as the army had another and more important object in view, the destruction of the French in Egypt, this expedition was also abandoned.

Malta, so unjustly seized by Buonaparte, in his voyage to Egypt, had now experienced a blockade of two years both by sea and land, during which time General Vaubois, the French governor, had been summoned no less than eight times. At length, all hopes of receiving supplies from France having vanished, a part of the garrison left the port with two French frigates, one of which was taken, but the other escaped the vigilance of the British squadron. A few days after this, General Vaubois assembled a council of war in the national palace; and it appearing that the magazines of provisions had been entirely exhausted for more than a month; that the liquors of all kinds were nearly expended; and that bread, the only food remaining for the garrison and the citizens, must fail in the course of a week, it was determined to capitulate, and on the 5th of September the island was surrendered into the hands of the British.

In April the island of Goree, on the coast of Africa, surrendered to Commodore Sir Charles Hamilton, commanding the *Ruby* and *Melpomene* ships of war, without the slightest attempt at resistance; and in September the island of Curacao, in the West In-



dies, one of the few remaining colonies of the Batavian republic, voluntarily placed itself under the protection of the arms of his Britannic Majesty.

Notwithstanding these successes, the close of the 18th century was marked by circumstances of a gloomy and discouraging nature to England. All her plans for humbling the pride, curbing the ambition, and restraining the power of her implacable enemy, had completely failed; France had reduced the continent of Europe to that situation which enabled her, almost without the fear of opposition, to parcel out its various states at her pleasure, for the purpose either of dispossessing those who viewed her with a jealous eye, or of reward. A very large portion of the territory included between the Texel and the Bay of Naples was occupied by her tributaries and vassals, or by princes who trembled at her frown, and held their tottering power by the frail tenure of her ruler's will. Prussia, indeed, and Russia, had not yet bent beneath the weight of her arms, nor sunk before the machinations of her intriguing spirit; but the Emperor Paul, forsaking his alliance with England, had become her enemy, and, complaining of her maritime encroachments, he stopped all the British vessels in his ports, on the idle allegation of the detention of Malta, to which he claimed a right, in consequence of the assumed authority of grand master of the order of knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He even sent the seamen into confinement, sequestered all British property on shore, and put seals on all warehouses containing English goods. The Prussian monarch, who had for some time held the scale of victory in his hands, indulged his ancient jealousy of the house of Austria, contemplated her humiliation with pleasure, and passively looked on

while France was trampling on the settled institutions of surrounding states, vainly imagining that he possessed the ability to stop her career, whenever her efforts should be directed against himself, and, more effectually to favour her views, joined a hostile confederacy of the northern powers, which had been recently formed against England.

The principles of this compact had been adopted and acted upon by Denmark and Sweden; the right of search had been actively resisted; and all the communications which had taken place between Great Britain and the northern powers only seemed to demonstrate the firm resolution of the latter to persist in a line of conduct, which must reduce this country to the necessity of either submitting to a wanton violation of her acknowledged rights, or of resisting the assertion of those hostile principles by arms. This confederacy, aiming a deadly blow at the maritime power of Great Britain, at a period of severe pressure, when forsaken by her continental allies, and threatened with famine at home, was a counterpart of the memorable armed neutrality of 1780, which had the same object in view. An acquiescence in such claims, which went the length of maintaining the right of a neutral power, however insignificant, to carry on, in time of war, the trade of a belligerent, and to supply her with whatever was necessary for the support of the contest in which she was engaged, would have been equally dangerous and dishonourable, for if the principle were once admitted, that free bottoms made free goods, and that no merchantmen could be subjected to search which were under the protection of a ship of war, a Danish or a Swedish frigate might cover the whole trade of France, and exempt her from the expense of insurance, and the risk of capture. It was a claim

which took from maritime superiority all its lawful advantages ; sheltered weakness beneath the flag of fraud ; and contravened all the principles which, for a century, had regulated the conduct of naval powers ; and which England, in particular, had always proclaimed, supported, and enforced. It struck, indeed, at the very source of our prosperity, and could not be submitted to without a sacrifice, which must be speedily followed by the loss of our national wealth, greatness, and independence. It was, therefore, resolved to resist this combination to the utmost of our power, and at all hazards ; and every attempt at procuring redress by negotiation having failed, the most active preparations were made to extort it by arms.

The British Parliament assembled for the last time on the 11th of November, 1800, previously to which the increased price of provisions had been productive of a degree of public distress almost unequalled. The crop of this year, like that of the preceding, had been generally deficient in every country in Europe, and the scarcity, which was great and deplorable, bore every symptom of long continuance. The sober and industrious classes of the labouring poor sustained their hardships with laudable patience ; and though there were some riots in the metropolis and other parts of the country, no general ebullition burst forth that required to be suppressed by bloodshed. To alleviate the public distress, the dangerous measure of a maximum was, on the 5th of December, brought forward in Parliament by the Earl of Warwick, who proposed to fix the highest value of wheat at 10*s.* per bushel, although the actual price was at that time more than 20*s.* ; but the false and mischievous notion of an artificial scarcity, upon which this proposal proceeded,

was exploded by the calm wisdom of Parliament ; the motion was rejected with marked disapprobation ; and the legislature confined its efforts to suggesting expedients for diminishing the consumption and encouraging the foreign supply. High bounties were granted on importation ; the baking of mixed and inferior flour was enforced by act of Parliament ; the distillation of spirits from grain was prohibited ; and, to the honour of the wealthier part of the community, the hand of charity was also liberally opened.

Among other causes of dearth, the great increase of the population was repeatedly mentioned ; and in the course of the session, a bill was brought into Parliament by Mr. Abbot, for ascertaining the fact, when it appeared, upon an actual enumeration of the people of Great Britain, that they amounted to nearly 11,000,000, a result exceeding the highest previous conjecture ; and it is probable that the aggregate population of Great Britain and Ireland amounted at this period to 16,000,000.

The discussion of the late negociations, which occupied a part of this short session, produced no debates of importance ; and the supplies having been granted, Parliament was prorogued on the last day of the year by the King in person. His Majesty, before he retired, ordered the chancellor to read a proclamation, declaring that the individuals who composed the expiring Parliament should be members, on the part of Great Britain, of the new or imperial Parliament.

On the 1st of January, 1801, a royal declaration was issued concerning the style and titles appertaining to the imperial crown of Great Britain and Ireland ; and also to the ensigns, armorial flags, and banners thereof. In the new heraldic arrangement the *fleur-de-lis* was omitted, the title of King of France

was expunged, and the royal dignity was in future to be expressed in the Latin tongue by these words : "*Georgius Tertius, Dei Gratia, Britanniarum Rex, Fidei Defensor*," and in the vernacular language, "George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith." On the same day, the Great Seal of Britain was delivered up and defaced, and a new seal for the empire was given to the lord-chancellor. A new standard also, combining the three crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick, was hoisted, amidst the discharge of artillery, in each of the three capitals of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the new year was ushered in with every demonstration of joy. The imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland assembled on the 22d of January, and proceeded to elect a speaker, when Mr. Henry Addington, who had long and ably filled the chair of the Lower House, was again placed in that elevated situation. On the 2d of February, the King, in a speech from the throne, congratulated the senate on the union which had been so happily effected ; the other topics were the state of the continent, and the dispute with the northern associated powers relative to the maritime code. The debates on the address were highly interesting. In the Peers, Earl Fitzwilliam, who had hitherto contended strenuously for the continuance of the war, and the restoration of the Bourbons, treated the contest as hopeless ; he, however, insisted on the propriety of an inquiry into the causes of the failure, when such large and almost unbounded powers had been intrusted to ministers, and when they had had the whole of Europe to assist in the common cause ; it was also necessary to be informed, why, instead of succeeding against an ancient

enemy, they had at once plunged the nation into a contest with her allies. The new conflict in which we were about to engage, was, he added, as far as Sweden and Denmark were concerned, one of our own seeking, as we had it in our power to suspend the discussion of the question relative to the neutral code, in the same manner as in 1780, when this country was in a less difficult situation than at present. Lord Grenville defended the conduct of ministers, and maintained that the claim of searching neutral vessels originated in the law of nations and the rights of nature, and that the assertion of this right constituted the foundation of our commerce and our wealth, and was the bulwark of the naval and military glory of Great Britain. On a division, the address was carried by a majority of 73 to 17 voices.

In the Commons, Mr. Pitt, after repelling a variety of objections, insisted, that our very existence as a nation depended on our possessing and exercising the right of searching neutral vessels; he maintained that our claims on the present occasion arose not only out of positive treaties, but out of the law of nations; and he asked, if we were to permit the navy of our enemy to be supplied and recruited, to suffer blockaded ports to be furnished with stores and provisions, and allow neutral nations, by hoisting a flag on a sloop or a fishing-boat, to convey the treasures of South America to Spain, or the naval stores of the Baltic to Brest or to Toulon. When the House divided, the majority in favour of ministers was 245 against 63.

The union of Great Britain and Ireland was, not without reason, regarded by Mr. Pitt as the transaction which reflected the greatest lustre upon his administration; and although he had uniformly opposed the claim of Catholic emancipation during the exist-

ence of the separate legislature of Ireland, he had, it was understood, to facilitate this favourite object, given assurances to the Irish Catholics of a complete participation in all political privileges, as soon as the union should have taken place. When this proposition was submitted to the cabinet council, some of its members expressed opposite sentiments, and the King took a decided part in the dispute, alleging that the oath taken by him at his coronation, precluded his assent to a scheme which might, in its consequences, endanger the religious establishment. As this repugnance obstructed the recommendation of the measure to Parliament, and diminished the probability of its success, Mr. Pitt declared that he conceived himself bound to resign a situation, in which he was not at full liberty to pursue his ideas of equity and public benefit; unquestionably, however, this circumstance alone did not induce him to retire, such a step being forcibly inculcated by the situation of the country, which was now left, without a single ally, involved in an apparently interminable war, and in the hands of a ministry, who, by their decided hostility to the existing government of France, had almost precluded the possibility of engaging in amicable negotiations. The prime minister was accompanied in his resignation by Lord Grenville and other members of the cabinet.

The offices of first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer, were conferred upon Mr. Addington, the Speaker of the House of Commons; to which high office he had been appointed by the influence of Mr. Pitt, with whom he continued on terms of intimate friendship. The post next in dignity, that of secretary for foreign affairs, hitherto held by Lord Grenville, was given to Lord Hawkesbury.

Earl St. Vincent was placed at the head of the admiralty, in the place of Earl Spencer; Lord Eldon, chief justice of the Common Pleas, formerly Sir John Scott, succeeded Lord Loughborough in the Court of Chancery; Lords Hobart and Pelham were nominated secretaries of state, in the room of Mr. Dundas and the Duke of Portland; Mr. Yorke succeeded Mr. Windham as secretary at war; his brother, the Earl of Hardwicke, was destined to the vice-regal office in Ireland; Lord Lewisham was placed at the head of the board of controul; and in this general change, the Duke of Portland and Lord Westmoreland alone retained their stations in the cabinet, the former as president of the council, and the latter as lord privy seal. On the 10th of February, Mr. Addington resigned his office as Speaker of the House of Commons; and, on the following day, Sir John Mitford was chosen in his stead. The agitation of the King's mind had, however, so materially affected the state both of his bodily and mental health, that the new arrangements, although nearly completed, were not formally announced, and a total interruption of the regal functions ensued, during which the former ministers continued to discharge the duties of their respective offices. On the same day that Mr. Addington resigned his office of Speaker, the Earl of Darnley moved for an inquiry into the state of the nation, when Lord Grenville acquainted the House, that his Majesty's servants, not being able to carry into effect a measure which they deemed essential to the tranquillity and prosperity of the empire, had tendered the resignation of their several employments, which had been accepted; and on this representation the earl postponed his motion. The routine of Parliamentary business went on as usual during the ill-



ness of the King, who having at length recovered, the appointments of the new ministers were announced in the accustomed form, and on the 17th of March Mr. Addington was sworn into the two offices which Mr. Pitt had so long enjoyed.

The first measures of the new ministry were directed towards the securing of internal tranquillity. Ireland being still in a disturbed state, the act for the suppression of rebellion in that country was renewed, as was that for the suspension of the *habeas corpus*. This act was also suspended in Great Britain, and the bill for preventing seditious meetings was revived, in consequence of a report from a select committee of the House of Commons, stating the existence of societies of disaffected persons in Great Britain, particularly of one in London, entitled the United Britons. These measures were followed by the introduction of a bill of indemnity in favour of the late administration, which also passed both Houses. An act to remove doubts respecting the eligibility of persons in holy orders to sit in the House of Commons, by which they were henceforth excluded, passed in this session, in consequence of John Horne Tooke's having been returned for Old Sarum by its proprietor, Lord Camelford; and on the 2d of July Parliament was prorogued by commission.

The late ministry, determined to overawe or to dispel the northern confederacy, had issued an order in council, dated the 14th of January, imposing an embargo on all Russian, Danish, and Swedish vessels in the ports of Great Britain; but the court of Berlin, although a party to the league, was treated upon this occasion with peculiar deference, probably because its hostility would endanger the King's German dominions. Preparations were also made to send a fleet

into the Sound, and to hazard all the evils likely to result from a war, which threatened to exclude the British flag from the navigation of the Baltic, and her commerce from the shores of the Elbe, the Ems, the Vistula, and the Weser. On the other hand, the utmost exertions had for some time past been made in all the ports of Russia, Sweden, and Denmark. Their combined navy, if fitted out by a simultaneous movement, would have amounted to nearly eighty sail of the line; and these, together with the numerous gun boats and floating batteries which they either possessed already, or could have easily constructed, might have rendered their narrow seas and difficult coasts impervious to attack.

In the course of the spring the Danes took possession of **Hamburgh**, for the alleged purpose of stopping the British trade to that port, and the King of Prussia, after an unsuccessful negociation with the English government, occupied the bailiwick of **Ritzebuttle** and the port of **Cuxhaven**; and, on the 30th of March, a body of his troops entered the electorate of **Hanover**, the military establishment of which, amounting to 20,000 men, under Prince **Adolphus of England**, not being sufficient to justify any resistance on the part of the regency, a conventional declaration was issued, submitting to his Prussian Majesty.

As no hopes could be entertained of the pacification of Europe, on terms honourable to Great Britain, until the dissolution of this confederacy, a British fleet, consisting of 18 ships of the line, and four frigates, with a number of gun-boats and bomb-vessels, in all 54 sail, proceeded from **Yarmouth Roads** for the Baltic, under the command of Admiral **Sir Hyde Parker**, assisted by Vice-admiral **Lord Nelson**, and Rear-admiral **Totty**, the last of whom was

so unfortunate as to lose his flag-ship on a sand bank off the coast of Lincolnshire. It was supposed that Denmark, whose trade and prosperity had increased considerably during the war, might be prevailed upon to sue for forbearance, and the first efforts of this armament were therefore directed against her capital, while Mr. Vansittart, a new minister plenipotentiary, was instructed to endeavour to detach the court of Copenhagen from the northern alliance; the Prince-regent, however, who had governed many years in the name of his father, declared that he was determined to adhere to his engagements. On the 30th of March, the English squadron passed the Sound with no considerable resistance, and after anchoring about four or five miles from the island of Huen, Sir Hyde Parker, in company with Lord Nelson and Rear-admiral Graves, surveyed the formidable line of ships, rideaux, galleys, fire-vessels, and gun-boats, flanked and supported by extensive batteries on the two islands called the Crowns: these were supported by two ships of 70 guns, and a large frigate in the inner road of Copenhagen, while two 64 gun-vessels, without masts, were moored on the flat towards the entrance to the arsenal. Lord Nelson, who had made an offer of his services to conduct the attack, and had for that purpose shifted his flag from the *St. George* to the *Elephant*, a vessel of smaller size, immediately gave directions for buoying the channel of the outer diep and the middle ground, after which the detachment, consisting of 12 sail of the line, with frigates, bombs, and fire-ships, selected for the assault, passed in safety, and anchored off *Draco*.

On the morning of the 2d of April, the vice-admiral made the signal to weigh and engage the Danish

line of defence, which was found to consist of six sail of two deckers, 11 floating batteries, mounting from 18 to 26 cannon each, 1 bomb-ketch, and several schooner-rigged gun vessels; these were supported by the Crown islands, mounting 88 cannon, and four sail of the line moored in the harbour's mouth, together with some batteries thrown up on the island of Amak. The shallowness of the water and the intricacy of the navigation prevented the complete execution of the projected plan, for the Bellona and Russell grounded before they had reached the stations assigned to them, while the Agamemnon, being unable to weather the shoal of the middle, was obliged to anchor. The Elephant's station was in the centre, opposite to the Danish Commodore Fischer, who commanded in the Dannebrog, a 62 gun ship; and the average distance at which the action was fought was scarcely a cable's length. It commenced soon after ten o'clock; before half-past eleven it became general; and at one *p. m.* when few, if any of the enemy's ships had ceased to fire, the Isis, Monarch, and Bellona had received serious injury; while the division of the commander-in-chief could only menace the entrance to the harbour. In this posture of affairs the signal was thrown out on board the London, Admiral Parker's ship, for the action to cease; but Lord Nelson, nevertheless, continued the attack with unabated vigour. About two *p. m.* the greatest part of the enemy's line had ceased to fire; some of the lighter ships were adrift; and the carnage on board their vessels, whose crews were reinforced from the shore, was dreadful. The Danish commodore's ship was now on fire, and drifting in flames before the wind, spreading terror and dismay throughout their line; few of her crew could be saved, al-

though the British boats rowed in every direction for the purpose; and about half-past three she blew up with a terrible explosion.

The ships a-head, and the Crown batteries, as well as the prizes made by the British, continuing to fire after the Dannebrog was in flames, Lord Nelson dispatched a letter, addressed "To the Brothers of Englishmen, the brave Danes," saying, that if the fire were continued on the part of Denmark, he must be obliged to destroy all the floating batteries he had taken, without having the power of saving the brave Danes who had defended them. This was conveyed on shore through the contending fleets, by Captain Sir Frederic Thesiger, who found the prince near the sally-port, animating his people, and sharing their dangers. It deserves to be remarked, that this letter, which exhibited a happy union of policy and courage, was written at a moment when Lord Nelson perceived, that in consequence of the unfavourable state of the wind, the admiral was not likely to get up to aid the enterprise; that the principal batteries of the enemy, and the ships at the mouth of the harbour, were yet untouched; that two of his own division had grounded; and that others were likely to share the same fate.

The firing from the Crown batteries, and from the leading ships of the British, did not cease till past three o'clock, when the Danish Adjutant-general Lindholm, returning with a flag of truce, directed it to be suspended. The signal for doing the same was then made to the British ships, and the action closed after five hours' duration, four of which were warmly contested, and during which the whole of the Danish line, to the southward of the Crown islands, amounting to 17 sail, were sunk, burnt, or taken. The

battle of Copenhagen was, by Lord Nelson's own account, the most dreadful that he had ever witnessed. Captain Riou, who particularly distinguished himself, was severed in two by a raking shot ; Captain Mosse, commander of the *Monarch*, was also killed ; and the total loss of the British, in killed and wounded, amounted to 1000 ; while that of the Danes was considerably greater. Notwithstanding the long peace they had enjoyed, the Danish batteries, both afloat and ashore, were manned, and the guns served, with a degree of promptitude and valour that would have conferred credit on veteran troops. A negotiation was entered upon, which terminated in an armistice for fourteen weeks, during which the treaty of armed neutrality, as far as related to Denmark, was to be suspended.

When the disabled vessels were refitted, the British squadron sailed to Carlsrona, and on the 18th of April arrived off that port. Sir Hyde Parker lost no time in acquainting the governor that an armistice had been concluded, by which the disputes between the courts of Copenhagen and St. James's had been accommodated, and he required an explicit answer from the court of Sweden, relative to its intention to abandon the hostile measures adopted in conjunction with Russia, against the rights and interests of Great Britain. To this Vice-admiral Cronstedt replied, that it was the unalterable resolution of his Swedish Majesty not to fail for a moment in fulfilling, with fidelity and sincerity, the engagements he had entered into with his allies ; but that he would not refuse to listen to equitable proposals for the accommodation of disputes, provided they were made by plenipotentiaries, sent on the part of the King of Great Britain to the united powers. On receiving this answer, the

admiral left the bay without firing a gun ; and all future hostilities with the northern states were happily prevented by the death of the Emperor Paul, who fell by the hands of his courtiers, on the 22d of March.

As soon as Alexander the First, son of the deposed emperor, succeeded to the throne of his father, he published an ukase, revoking several of the acts of the late government, and restoring the British seamen to liberty. Baron Lisakeewitsch, the Russian minister at the court of Denmark, having notified those events to Sir Hyde Parker, the admiral immediately returned to Kioge bay, to await the orders of his court in consequence of this new and interesting change, and in the mean time the benefits of the armistice were extended to the court of Stockholm. About the same period, Lord St. Helen's arrived at the court of St. Petersburg, in quality of minister plenipotentiary for England ; and by a convention signed in the Russian capital on the 17th of June, the emperor on the one hand allowed the right of search, under certain restrictions, by ships of war, but not by privateers ; while on the other hand, the merchandize of the produce, growth, and manufacture of the countries engaged in war, might be purchased and carried away by the neutral powers ; but by a subsequent explanatory declaration, the commerce between the mother country of a belligerent and her colonies was expressly excluded from the benefit of this arrangement. It was also stipulated by one of the articles, that Sweden and Denmark should receive back their ships and settlements on acceding to this treaty, and with these terms they both very readily complied. Thus Great Britain, partly by the sudden demise of the Emperor Paul, and partly by the thunder of her navy, saw a

confederacy dissolved which aimed at the decrease of her maritime greatness, and was calculated to involve her in a new and disastrous war.

The attachment of Portugal to England again excited the attention of the French government, and its ally, the King of Spain, was induced to declare war against that country in March. A counter declaration from the court of Lisbon was issued on the 21st of April, worthy of the most prosperous days of the Portuguese monarchy, and accompanied by preparations for defence. A Spanish army, however, entered the province of Alentejo in May, and having advanced to the Tagus almost without opposition, a treaty of peace was signed at Badajos on the 6th of June, by which Spain obtained possession of the province of Olivenza, and the harbours of Portugal were shut against the English. The French government refused to concur in the treaty unless certain places in Portugal were occupied by French troops; and General St. Cyr, who had been invested with the character of ambassador to the court of Madrid, entered Portugal at the head of 24,000 troops, and invested the fortress of Almeida, within thirty leagues of the capital. No sooner was this event known at Lisbon, than the court became alarmed for its safety, and as the subsidy of 300,000*l.* voted to that state by the British Parliament was unaccompanied by a body of troops, as had been originally intended, a treaty was signed at Madrid on the 29th of September, highly favourable to France. During this contest, the British ministry, apprehensive lest the island of Madeira should be delivered up to the enemy, sent a squadron thither, with a small body of land forces under Colonel Clinton, who took possession of the forts which command the bay of Funchal.



The force which had been destined against Egypt in the preceding year, after having repaired to Gibraltar, to recover from the inconveniences of a long cruise in a boisterous season, proceeded from Malta in December, in two divisions, for Marmorice, on the coast of Caramania, where they were landed for refreshment. Being re-embarked, they sailed for Aboukir bay, and on the 8th of March, 1801, the first division effected their landing in the face of a body of French, who were aware of their intention, and were posted in force with considerable advantages of position. The front of the disembarkation was narrow, and a hill, which commanded the whole, appeared almost inaccessible; yet the British troops ascended it, under the fire of grape-shot, with the utmost intrepidity, and forced the French to retire, leaving behind them several pieces of artillery and a number of horses: in this service 700 of our men, sailors included, were killed or wounded. On the 12th, the whole army came within sight of the French, who were formed advantageously on a ridge, and on the following day marched in two lines, with an intention of turning their right flank; the attack, however, was anticipated by the enemy, who descended from the heights on which they had formed, and engaged the leading brigades of both lines; the British troops were therefore obliged to change their position, and the advanced guard suffered considerably, but after a severe conflict, which lasted several hours, the general did not think it prudent to persist in his intention to force the heights on which the enemy were posted, and therefore ordered the army to return to the position which they occupied in the morning.

Fort Aboukir capitulated on the 19th, and on the 20th General Menou arriving from Cairo, the whole

of the French disposeable force was concentrated at Alexandria. The memorable conflict which decided the fate of Egypt took place on the following day, at the distance of about four miles from that city. It commenced before day-light in the morning, by a false attack on the left of the English, under Major-general Craddock, in which the French were repulsed, but their most vigorous efforts were directed to the right. The attack on that point was gallantly begun by the French infantry, sustained by a strong body of cavalry, who charged in column, and the contest was remarkably obstinate: they were twice repulsed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with the British infantry. While this was passing on the right, the French attempted to penetrate the centre of the British army with a column of infantry, who were also repulsed, and obliged to retreat; and another body advanced against the left of the English, which was the weakest of the line; but all their efforts were ineffectual, and the British forces remained masters of the field. The loss on our side, in killed, wounded, and missing, amounted to 1500; that of the French, who lost the greatest part of a famous corps which Buonaparte had arrogantly called the Invincibles, and whose standard was taken, was estimated at double that number. In this action, Major-general Moore and Sir Sidney Smith were also wounded. The French General Roize was left dead on the field, and Generals Lanusse and Rodet afterwards died of their wounds.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie was vigorously engaged in the heat of action on the right, when he received a mortal wound in the thigh by a musket ball, which he concealed from the army till the period for exertion was past, when his strength failed him: he was

carried off the field, and conveyed on board the admiral's ship, where he died on the 28th. His death was universally and most deservedly lamented, for his mind was stored with every great and good quality; his military talents were undoubtedly great; his services had been long and brilliant; and whilst regarded as a strict disciplinarian, he still conciliated the esteem of all whom he commanded.

On the death of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, the command devolved on General Hutchinson, with whom it was for some time a matter of doubt, whether he should lay siege to Alexandria, or proceed farther into the country, and, after forming a junction with the Turkish army, which was hastening to join him by the way of Syria, endeavour to reduce Grand Cairo, and to cut off all communication between the French on the coast, and every part of the interior. The inadequacy of his force to form the siege of Alexandria induced him to adopt the latter plan of operations; the junction between the English and Turkish armies was effected at the beginning of June, and on the 15th General Hutchinson wrote to General Belliard, who commanded at Cairo, offering him the most honourable terms to induce him to surrender the place, but he peremptorily refused, although he knew the incompetency of his army to guard such extensive fortifications, and was sensible that his own troops desired nothing so ardently as to return to Europe. He, however, shortly sent a flag of truce to the English camp, and, after a long conference, a capitulation was signed on the 27th of June, by which the French engaged to evacuate Cairo, on being allowed to return, with their arms, to Europe. This capitulation was carried into effect on the 10th of the following month, when the English and Turks took

possession of the city, and both their flags were hoisted on the citadel. The total amount of persons included in the capitulation exceeded 14,000, exclusive of women and children. In the mean time the town and castle of Rosetta were taken by a division of the British army, under Colonel Spencer, aided by a body of Turks. The French garrison, consisting of about 800 men, made but a feeble resistance, and retired to the right bank of the Nile, leaving a few men killed and taken prisoners. General Hutchinson, having received some reinforcements in the month of July, which swelled his army to 16,000 men, resolved to commence the siege of Alexandria. The approaches to the town were made under circumstances highly honourable to the valour and good conduct of the besieging army, who drove the enemy from post to post, till the French commander, Menou, finding no prospect of relief from Europe, and no hopes of ultimate success from further resistance, agreed, on the 1st of September, to surrender the place, on condition of being sent to Europe. The whole force in Alexandria, at the period of this capitulation, was 10,528 men; the last of which sailed from the harbour on the 18th of September.

Thus, with a force far inferior to that of their opponents, did the British army wrest this important country from their enemies, and restore it to their allies; but as the conventions were concluded on grounds similar to that signed at El Arish, the philanthropist will not consider the glory acquired by the British arms as an equivalent for the effusion of blood with which it was attended. Intelligence of the event reached Paris before the British cabinet could be apprized of it, through an inconsiderate permission, granted by General Hutchinson to the French

commander, to dispatch a swift sailing vessel to his government the moment the capitulation was signed. In consequence of the knowledge thus obtained, the first consul of France derived an important advantage, in a treaty of peace which he hastily concluded with the Turks, and which contained many provisions highly favourable to the French, who had grossly violated every agreement which they had entered into with the Porte; and greatly prejudicial to the English, who, from the important assistance which they had rendered to the Turks, and from their honourable conduct towards them on all occasions, were entitled to every return which justice, generosity, and gratitude, could suggest or confer. The evacuation of Egypt (the Turkish ambassador not knowing that it had actually taken place) was the consideration held out by the French, for the benefits which they claimed, and the privileges which they acquired, by this new treaty.

Whilst the possession of Egypt was uncertain, Buonaparte determined to point all his efforts against the only enemy either unsubdued or unhumbled by the arts and arms of France. Large bodies of troops were accordingly collected on the opposite coasts; ships, guns, and flat-bottomed boats, were built and equipped; the ports of France, Belgium, and Holland were crowded with armed vessels; camps were formed at Bruges, Gravelines, Boulogne, Brest, Granville, Cherbourg, and St. Maloe's; and the deeds about to be performed by those armies which had forced the passage of the Bormida, the Danubē, the Inn, and the Salza, and gained the battles of Marengo and Hohenlinden, were vaunted in the consular proclamations and manifestoes. Buonaparte affected to consider the English as a nation rendered

effeminate by wealth, and unwarlike by commerce ; and it was confidently predicted that the steel of the French would prove more than a match for the gold of the Britons. On the other hand, the whole island was in motion ; and one uniform spirit of patriotic defiance was breathed by the inhabitants. The volunteer battalions and companies were increased ; a numerous and respectable body of yeomanry cavalry was formed ; the fencible regiments were disciplined into a knowledge of the military art ; and the militia, many regiments of which had served in Ireland, received a considerable augmentation by means of the supplementary levy. From the votes of supply for this year, it appears that the total land and sea force, exclusive of volunteers, amounted to nearly 500,000.

Buonaparte, surrounded by a brilliant assemblage of troops, affected to blend all the state of the ancient Kings of France with that of the emperors of the west ; being surrounded by numerous guards, attended by the prefects of the palace, and appearing only on great occasions in the presence of the people. By a convention with the pope, ratified on the 10th of September, he was not only acknowledged to possess all the privileges of the ancient monarchy so far as concerned public worship, but new and essential immunities were obtained for the Gallican church. His holiness agreed to procure the resignation of the prelates who had adhered to the old establishment, and the chief magistrate was to nominate to the vacant sees. A new formula of prayer was introduced ; and the holy father covenanted, in behalf of himself and his successors, that those who had acquired the alienated property of the church should not be disturbed. By a concordat, the apostolical and Roman faith was declared to be the reli-

gion of the state, and the Catholics were to pay one-tenth of their taxes to defray the expenses of public worship.

British seamen this year displayed their accustomed zeal and devotion in the cause of their country. In March, Admiral Duckworth made an easy capture of the Swedish island of St. Bartholomew, as well as of the Danish settlements of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, which were of course restored to those powers, in virtue of the treaty of St. Petersburg; the islands of St. Martin and St. Eustatia were also reduced; while in the east the Batavian settlement of Ternate, the chief of the Molucca islands, surrendered on the 21st of June, after a vigorous resistance, to a small squadron, under the command of Captain Hayes. In the Mediterranean two severe actions took place; the former of which proved unfortunate. Rear-admiral Sir James Saumarez was blockading the port of Cadiz, when he received intelligence that three French line of battle ships and a frigate were lying at anchor in the road of Algesiras, under cover of the batteries on shore, and immediately conceived the bold design of attacking them in that situation. On the 6th of July he proceeded with six sail of the line, under a favourable breeze, and a great impression was made on the flagship of the French commander, Rear-admiral Linois, by Captain Stirling, in the *Pompée*, till a change of wind prevented him from acting; as soon, however, as it again favoured, the *Hannibal*, Captain Ferris, pushed forward in the hope of passing between the French ships and the shore, an attempt which, he thought, might lead to a complete triumph; but his ship happened to take the ground under one of the batteries, and, as no effort could extricate her, he was obliged to give her up, after a considerable loss of

men, and the destruction of a great number of his adversaries. A breeze having enabled two other ships to approach the enemy, they kept up for a time a heavy fire, which, if the wind had not declined, would have enforced the surrender of the opposing vessels, but the impracticability of a close action at length induced Sir James to withdraw his force, when above 360 of his men had been killed or wounded. This disappointment served only to stimulate the eagerness of the British seamen for another contest. The ships were repaired with great expedition; and when the French, joined by a Spanish squadron, were sailing towards Cadiz, the rear of the united fleet was attacked on the night of the 12th of July, by the *Superb*, Captain Keats. This vessel having fired between the Spanish admiral's ship and another of 112 guns, and then retired, a mutual error, arising from the darkness of the night, occasioned a conflict between those two enemy's ships, when one of them suddenly took fire; the flames rapidly extended to the other; and both blew up with the loss of about 2000 men. This melancholy accident discouraged Linois and his associates, and tended to accelerate their retreat. The *San Antonio*, of 74 guns, was taken; but the *Formidable* baffled a severe attack from Captain Hood, whose ship struck upon a rock, and was with difficulty towed off in a disabled state. The enemy reached Cadiz without further molestation; and the English admiral sailed with his prize to Gibraltar. Thus ended an action in which the superiority of the enemy was immense; and Sir James Saumarez was gratified with the thanks of the two Houses of Parliament, and rewarded with a pension of 1200*l.* per annum.

In the course of this year, Captain Rowley Bulteel,



in the *Belliqueux*, with a convoy of *East Indiamen*, which were mistaken by the enemy for men of war, captured two French frigates in the neighbourhood of Brazil, forming part of a squadron which had committed great depredations on the coast of Africa. The fleet under Vice-admiral Rainier in the *East Indies* seized a number of valuable prizes, particularly two Dutch ships in the neighbourhood of Java. Captain T. Manby, in the *Bourdelois*, belonging to Rear-admiral Duckworth's detachment in the *West Indies*, nearly about the same time dispersed a small armament fitted out by Victor Hughes for the purpose of intercepting the outward-bound convoy. In the *Mediterranean* a most severe action was fought on the 10th of February, between the *Phœbe*, Captain R. Barlow, and the French frigate *L'Africaine*, the commander of which, though incapable of contending with the British vessel, would not yield until his ship became a mere wreck, with five feet water in her hold; all her guns were also dismounted, and his decks crowded with the dying and the dead; the number of the latter amounted to 200, and the wounded to 143, while the loss on board the *Phœbe* amounted only to one killed and twelve wounded. Lord Cochrane, in the *Speedy* sloop, of 14 four-pounders, and 54 men and boys, performed a brilliant exploit, by boarding and capturing the Spanish *Zebeck* frigate, of 32 guns, and 319 seamen and marines, off Barcelona.

The most interesting exploit of this campaign yet remains to be noticed. On the 2d of August, Lord Nelson hoisted his flag as vice-admiral of the blue on board the *Medusa*, and proceeded with two sail of the line, two frigates, and several smaller vessels, to *Boulogne*, where the French had assembled a great num-

ber of gun-boats, armed brigs, and lugger-rigged flats. Perceiving that twenty-four of these were anchored in a line in front of the harbour, a signal was hoisted, on which the bombs weighed with a favourable wind, and threw their shells with such effect, that in the course of a few hours, three of the flats and brigs were sunk, and six driven on shore. Lord Nelson was of opinion that the remainder of the flotilla might be captured by a bold and well concerted evolution, to be performed by the boats of his squadron, and accordingly directed the expedition to be undertaken on the night of the 15th of August, by five divisions, one of which carried howitzers, under the command of Captains Somerville, Cotgrave, Parker, Jones, and Conn, of the royal navy. Parker's division first approached the enemy, and began the attack with undaunted bravery; but an unforeseen obstacle baffled his exertions: a very strong netting was traced up to the lower yards of the French vessels, which were firmly fastened with chains to each other, as well as to the ground; and so irresistible was the foe, thus guarded, that two-thirds of the crew of the boat in which he acted were repelled, in attempting to board a large brig, by a tremendous discharge of cannon and musketry. A shot carried away the leg and part of the thigh of the gallant captain, who afterwards died of his wounds. The other divisions separating, and not arriving at the same time, only one lugger was brought off, while several boats of the assailants were sunk or taken, with a considerable loss in killed and wounded.

Whilst every shore re-echoed with the thunder of hostility, the inhabitants of both France and England had become heartily tired of the war. For some time past an active intercourse had taken place between the

two governments. Flags of truce and of defiance were actually displayed at the same time, and in the same strait; so that while Boulogne and Dunkirk were bombarded and blockaded by hostile squadrons, the ports of Dover and Calais were frequently visited by the packet-boats and the messengers of the courts of St. James's and the Thuilleries. The negociation had been carried on in London, between Lord Hawkesbury, on the one hand, and Louis William Otto, who had been some time resident in this country as a commissary for the exchange of prisoners, on the other; the former, by a departure from the established rules of diplomatic etiquette, having consented to reduce himself to a level with a private citizen of France. It had continued during the whole of the summer; and in its progress many impediments arose, and some curious discussions took place, relative to the liberty of the press in this country, which Buonaparte, fearful that it might be employed to expose his own character, wished to restrain; but with every disposition to concede, as far as possible, Lord Hawkesbury resisted every attempt to encroach on that freedom of discussion, to which much of the excellence of the British constitution may fairly be ascribed. At length, the cabinet of Paris, having received Menou's dispatches from Egypt, hastened the conclusion of the business; and, on the 1st of October, the preliminaries were signed by Lord Hawkesbury and M. Otto. This intelligence was immediately communicated in a note to the Lord Mayor, and diffused general satisfaction throughout the whole kingdom. At the end of eleven days, the ratification of the preliminary treaty on the part of the first consul was brought from Paris by Colonel Lauriston, who, as well as the French plenipotentiary, was drawn through the streets of the

metropolis in his carriage by the populace. By this treaty Great Britain restored to France and her allies every possession or colony taken from them during the war, with the exception of the Spanish island of Trinidad, and the Dutch settlements at Ceylon. The Cape of Good Hope was to become a free port, and Malta was to be restored to the order, but under the express guarantee and protection of a third power, to be fixed upon in the definitive treaty. In order to bring that treaty to a speedy conclusion, Lord Cornwallis was dispatched to France. Amiens was the scene of negotiation appointed by the first consul; and his brother, Joseph Buonaparte, received the full power to treat with the British plenipotentiary. In the course of the discussion which ensued, fresh difficulties were started by France, and fresh demands preferred, which occasioned so much delay, that it was supposed by many that war would be renewed. On the 25th of March, 1802, however, matters were finally arranged, and the seal was put to the treaty of Amiens, which differed from the preliminaries only in the following points: a part of Portuguese Guiana was given up to the French by a new adjustment of boundaries: with regard to Malta, it was stipulated that no French or English langue, or class of knights, should be allowed; that one half of the soldiers in garrison should be natives, and that the rest should be furnished for a time by the King of Naples; that the independence of the island, under the sway of the knights, should be guaranteed by France, Great Britain, Austria, Spain, Russia, and Prussia; and that its ports should be free to all nations. It was agreed, that the Prince of Orange should receive compensation for his loss of property and of power. Persons who might hereafter be accused of murder, forgery,

and fraudulent bankruptcy, were to be surrendered to the demands of each of the respective powers.

Thus ended the revolutionary war, in the defeat of all the hopes and expectations which had been formed, of indemnity for the past, and of security for the future ; and in the accomplishment of all those gigantic plans of subversion and conquest, which had been conceived by the first founders of the French republic, and pursued, with unremitting activity, by all her successive rulers. By the peace of Amiens, a great part of the continent of Europe was laid prostrate at the feet of France ; and French influence remained predominant from the German Ocean to the Bay of Naples. In short, jacobinism triumphed ; her child and champion established his ascendancy ; her firmest advocates were honoured and rewarded ; and the stamp of success was given to her boldest projects. Not one of the objects which the princes originally confederated against France professed to have in view, was attained ; on the contrary, her power was extended, her territories were enlarged, her influence was increased, and her principles had surmounted every obstacle opposed to their progress. Her government, it is true, had assumed a new form, less terrific in appearance than the murderous system of Robespierre and his sanguinary associates, but in reality more despotic. A military tyranny, formed out of the elements of jacobinism, destroyed every vestige of civil liberty, and imposed the most galling and odious fetters on the minds, as well as the persons, of the people. England, indeed, had escaped the yoke to which the powers of the continent had, in a greater or lesser degree, submitted. She had secured her constitution and her government from the effects of that revolutionary poison which had destroyed so many ancient

institutions, and had subverted so many thrones. She had even enlarged her dominions, by the acquisition of an important settlement in Asia, which afforded her the long sought for advantage of a safe and commodious harbour in the Eastern Ocean, and by an island in the West Indies, of consequence more from its relative situation to the Spanish Main, than from its produce or probable revenue. She had also kept inviolate her faith with her allies, and had preserved her national character pure amidst surrounding corruption; but here ends the catalogue of her advantages; in every other point she had completely failed. None of the objects which she had pursued in common with the other powers of Europe had she been able to attain; she had bounteously opened her treasures to those who fought against revolutionary anarchy; she had made every exertion which her spirit could suggest, and her resources command; and had her allies but displayed equal vigour and resolution, their united efforts must have been crowned with success. All ranks and descriptions of men, however, hailed the return of peace with extraordinary marks of joy.

#### CHAPTER XXVI.

THE second session of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland was opened on the 29th of October, 1801, by the King in person, who in a speech from the throne announced the favourable conclusion of the negotiation for peace, and declared his satisfaction, that the difference which existed with the northern powers had been adjusted by a convention

with the Emperor of Russia, to which the Kings of Denmark and of Sweden had expressed their readiness to accede, and by which the essential rights for which we contended were secured. He then proceeded to state, that preliminaries of peace had also been ratified between himself and the French republic; and he trusted that this important arrangement, while it manifested the justice and moderation of his views, would also be found conducive to the substantial interests of this country, and honourable to the British character. In the Upper House, the address was moved by Lord Bolton; and the Duke of Bedford, in a speech containing much censure of the late, and praise of the present administration, declared his cordial concurrence in the address, which was agreed to without a dissentient voice.

In the Lower House, Mr. Fox expressed the same sentiments of approbation respecting the peace, in which he was warmly seconded by Mr. Pitt, who described it as glorious and honourable. After the continental alliance had been dissolved, he said, nothing remained for us but to procure just and honourable conditions of peace for ourselves and the few allies who had not deserted us. When it became a mere question of terms, he was much more anxious as to the tone and character of the peace, than about any particular object which should come into dispute. As long as the peace was honourable, he should prefer accepting terms even short of what he thought the country entitled to, to risking the result of the negotiation by too obstinate an adherence to any particular point. On the other hand, Mr. Windham, the late secretary at war, avowed his entire disapprobation of the preliminary treaty recently signed with France, and declared himself to be a solitary mourner in the midst

of public rejoicings. In signing that treaty he thought that his honourable friends, the present ministers, had signed the death-warrant of the country. Mr. Sheridan, advertng to the terms in which Mr. Pitt had spoken of the peace, said he could not agree that the conditions were glorious and honourable. It was, in his opinion, a peace of which every one was glad, but no one proud. The motion was finally carried with the same unanimity as in the Lords.

The subject of the preliminary treaty was taken formally into consideration by the Lords on the 3d of November, and a decided opposition to the terms of the peace was expressed by Earls Spencer, Caernarvon, and Fitzwilliam, the Marquis of Buckingham, the Bishop of St. Asaph, and Lord Grenville. The speech of the latter nobleman comprehended all the most powerful objections to the treaty. After drawing a parallel between the two contracting parties, and appreciating the acquisitions of France, he observed that on our side we had to boast successes no less brilliant and striking. We had multiplied our colonies, and our navy rode invincible. We had captured Malta, occupied Minorca, and shut up the Mediterranean against the navies of France and Spain. In the East Indies we had every thing except Batavia; and that possession would have been ours, but it was not worth the cost of an expedition. We had the Cape of Good Hope; if not the only, at least an important key to the East. We possessed the most desirable of the West India islands, and on the continent of South America, the valuable settlements of Surinam and Demerara. Colonial acquisitions, if not the main objects of the war, were yet highly essential, as they enabled us to cripple the maritime strength of the enemy by contracting her commerce; and if the con-



continent of Europe could not have been restored to its former state, they ought to have been retained as a counterpoise to the power of France. In the West Indies we had ceded all our conquests except Trinidad; and for this we had given in exchange the valuable island of Martinique. In the Mediterranean, where we possessed every thing, we had given up all except Gibraltar. Malta we had surrendered, and had reserved its future protection for subsequent discussion; yet no arrangement respecting that island could replace us in the situation in which we stood before the war. As the treaty did not specify who the protecting power was to be, it would be indecorous in him to say more upon that subject; but in any contest with that power, he would hold this important fortress as a pledge for our acquiescence in any demands which might be made. Having noticed the unsatisfactory guarantee for Portugal, and the omission of an effectual stipulation for Naples, he observed, that if we had negociated on a footing of equality, he saw no reciprocity; all the sacrifices were made on our part, and none on that of the other contracting parties. If the peace was not a measure of necessity, was it, he asked, one of security? In his opinion our danger was greater than ever. He would not suppose the threat of invasion to influence it; but if it did, that threat would be repeated whenever the enemy had a point to carry. By the peace we had removed every security which we before possessed. Malta, Minorca, the Cape of Good Hope, Cochin, all were surrendered; and our only security was the word of the government of France.

The treaty was defended by the Lord-Chancellor, the Duke of Bedford, Earls Moira, Westmoreland, and St. Vincent, Lords Hobart and Pelham, and the

Bishop of London, who argued that we had entered into the contest to guard the country against principles which had been designedly propagated for the purpose of overturning the constitution, but which no longer existed to any alarming extent ; the cession of Malta could not endanger our security in the Mediterranean, since the isle was to be placed under the guarantee of a third power ; and there was no use in maintaining a naval station there, if we could not command the commerce of that sea. Martinique would have been retained in preference to Trinidad, had it been possible ; but as that object was unattainable, was it necessary to recur to the alternative of spending 30,000,000*l.* more, that ministers might be able to ask themselves, that day twelve-months, how many more years were to pass away before peace could be made ? On what terms, it was asked, would the opponents of the treaty consent to a peace ? The restoration of the ancient monarchy of France was doubtless a desirable object ; but if the existing government of that country was an evil, how was it to be removed ? It could not be done without a great coalition of the European powers ; and when such a combination did exist, it was able to effect nothing. On the other hand, to have insisted on carrying on the war until France should be reduced within her ancient limits, would have been, on the part of ministers, a criminal waste of blood and treasure. The present peace might not be glorious, but it was one which would secure the substantial interests of the country. The address was carried by 114 against 10.

On the same day, a similar address was moved in the House of Commons ; which, after considerable discussion, was agreed to without a division.

On the 13th of November, the articles of the treaty

with Russia having been laid before the House of Peers, the Earl of Darnley moved an address of thanks and approbation to the throne. This address was vehemently opposed by Lord Grenville, who condemned the treaty in almost all its provisions; and, from the tenor of his lordship's remarks, it was obvious that no accommodation with the northern powers could have taken place, under the administration which had recently been dissolved. The question was carried in both Houses without a division.

When Parliament assembled, after the Christmas recess, the chancellor of the exchequer called the attention of the House to certain papers before them, relative to the civil list, by which it appeared that the pecuniary affairs of the Sovereign were again deeply in arrears; and a committee was appointed to examine the accounts now presented to the House. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Manners Sutton, solicitor to the Prince of Wales, advanced a claim of right on the part of the prince against the crown, or rather against the public, for the amount of the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall, received during his minority, and applied to the use of the civil list, which must otherwise have been supplied from other sources. Mr. Fox declared strongly in favour of the equity of this claim, but admitted that the sums voted for the payment of the Prince's debts ought to be deducted from the balance accruing to the Prince. On the 29th of March, 1802, the report of the committee was taken into consideration, when it appeared that a debt amounting to no less than 990,000*l.* had been contracted since the passing of Mr. Burke's reform bill, exclusive of the arrears discharged in the years 1784 and 1786, and since that time the

provisions of the bill had been wholly neglected. After a long and animated discussion, this sum was voted by the House : but the chancellor of the exchequer allowed that measures ought to be taken to prevent in future any such accumulation of debt. Two days after, Mr. Manners Sutton moved for the appointment of a committee, to inquire what sums were due to the Prince of Wales from the arrears of the revenues arising from the duchy of Cornwall. The chancellor of the exchequer considered it as inconsistent with his duty to concur in this motion. As to the legal question, he did not pretend to decide upon it ; but he thought the discussion ought not to be entertained in that House ; not at least till it appeared in proof, that on application for redress, supposing the wrong to exist, relief could not be obtained elsewhere. He concluded by moving the order of the day, which was carried by 160 against 103.

On the 29th of March, the chancellor of the exchequer gave notice of his intention to repeal the tax upon income. He acknowledged the burden of it to be very grievous, though the necessities of the state had rendered its adoption necessary ; but as this impost was originally proposed as a war tax, it should cease with the occasion that had given it birth. On the 5th of April, the plan of finance for the year was brought forward. The income-tax had been mortgaged by Mr. Pitt, for the sum of 56,445,000*l.* three *per cents*, for which the present minister, in consequence of the repeal of this tax, was obliged to make provision. The loan for Great Britain he stated at 23,000,000*l.* ; the capital in the different funds, created by the conversion of 8,500,000*l.* of exchequer bills into stock, previously to the Christmas recess, was 11,238,062*l.* and the aggregate sum appeared to be

no less than 97,934,137*l.* the interest of which was stated at 3,162,000*l.* To defray this enormous demand, very heavy additional duties were imposed on beer, malt, and hops. A considerable increase was also made to the assessed taxes; and the last article to which ministers had recourse at this crisis was a tax on imports and exports, being a modification of the convy duty. The produce of the new duties combined he estimated at 4,000,000*l.* an excess which compensated for the deficiency of divers of the taxes imposed in the course of the war. In the progress of the business of the revenue, the chancellor of the exchequer proposed and carried into effect several important alterations in the sinking fund bills of Mr. Pitt. The last or new fund, provided for liquidating the debt contracted since the year 1786, was much larger than the original fund established for the liquidation of the old debt, contracted before that period. These two funds the minister proposed to consolidate, and to perpetuate, till the whole of the debt, both old and new, should be completely liquidated. The original fund had now arisen to 2,534,187*l.* and the new to 3,275,143*l.* making together 5,809,330*l.* The debt contracted previously to the year 1786 amounted to something more than 259,000,000*l.* and the new debt amounted to nearly 300,000,000*l.* something less than 40,000,000*l.* having been redeemed by the old, and upwards of 20,000,000*l.* by the operation of the new fund. The whole of the existing funded debt, including the loan of the present year, was consequently about 540,000,000*l.* and the interest amounted annually to the vast sum of upwards of 17,000,000*l.*

The chancellor of the Irish exchequer soon after brought forward the business of finance relative to the revenue of that kingdom. It appeared from the state-

ment presented to the House, that the debt of Ireland had arisen, within the last ten years, from 2,300,000*l.* to 36,000,000*l.* paying an interest for the most part of six *per cent.* The deficiency of ways and means, when compared with the supplies, was 1,660,000*l.* which sum he proposed to raise by loan, in addition to a former one of 2,000,000*l.* which the contractors for the English loan had agreed to furnish upon the same terms. Mr. Corry at the same time proposed several new taxes, necessary to defray the interest of these new loans, which were agreed to.

Mr. Addington moved, on the 9th of April, for a bill to continue till the 1st of March, 1813, the restrictions on payments in specie at the bank, a motion that was carried with little opposition. Three days afterwards, a vote of censure on the former administration was formally moved by Sir Francis Burdett; but as a censure upon that body, by the present House, would have been a sentence of self condemnation, there was little prospect of its success. Lord Belgrave moved, as an amendment, that the thanks of the House be returned to his Majesty's late ministers, for their eminent services, in the exertions they made to preserve to us unimpaired the blessings we enjoyed during the whole of the late contest. The speaker having suggested an irregularity, the amendment was, at the request of Mr. Pitt himself, withdrawn; and the original proposition was negatived by a majority of 246 to 39. A motion yet more strange was made on the 7th of May following by Mr. Nichol, for an address to his Majesty, thanking him for the removal of the Right Hon. William Pitt from his councils, when Lord Belgrave again moved an amendment, expressive of the high approbation of that House respecting the character and conduct of the late minister and his col-

leagues. Mr. Fox declared himself unable to support either motion : he could not vote thanks for the dismissal of the late minister, till that dismissal was ascertained ; and this was a matter of doubt, as it was alleged by Mr. Pitt and his friends that he was not dismissed, but voluntarily resigned, from inability to realize his plan of Catholic emancipation. The motion of Lord Belgrave was carried by more than four to one ; as was also a second motion, by Sir Henry Mildmay, that the thanks of the House be given to the Right Honourable William Pitt.

These attacks on the character of Mr. Pitt seemed to increase his popularity. His birth-day was celebrated in the city of London with great enthusiasm. Earl Spencer, late first lord of the admiralty, presided in the chair, and in his glowing admiration of Mr. Pitt, gave as a toast to the company met to celebrate his birth : “ The pilot who weathered the storm.”

Sir John Mitford, the speaker of the English House of Commons, having vacated his chair by accepting the office of Lord-Chancellor of Ireland, in the room of Lord Clare deceased, with the title of Lord Redesdale, the speaker's chair was conferred on Charles Abbot, Esq. a lawyer of eminence and activity in business, and who had the merit of possessing an intimate acquaintance with the forms and usages of the House. Shortly afterwards, Francis, Duke of Bedford, after an illness of a few days' duration, died at Woburn Abbey, not having completed the 37th year of his age. An admirable eulogy upon his character was delivered in the House of Commons, by his friend Mr. Fox. Nearly at the same period, died the Chief Justice of England, Lloyd, Lord Kenyon. This noble judge was warm in his temper, honest in his intentions, learned in his profession, and impartial in his

administration of public justice. He was succeeded by the attorney-general, Edward Law, who on this occasion was raised to the peerage, under the title of Lord Ellenborough.

On the 13th of May, the grand debate relative to the definitive treaty of peace came on in both Houses of Parliament, when its stipulations and provisions were attacked and defended with more than ordinary ability. In respect to Malta, the bone of contention which so materially tended to involve the world in that destructive warfare which was shortly renewed, Lord Grenville observed, that few things could be more absurd than to place that island under the guarantee of six powers, who could not be expected to agree on any one point relating to it; and as to restoring it to the order of St. John, that was still more absurd; for how could it be said that such an order was in existence, when almost all their funds had been confiscated. The expenses of the order of Malta, chiefly in fortifications and garrisons, on an average of the last ten years, had been 130,000*l. per annum*. Their revenues from the island of Malta amounted to only 34,000*l.*, and only 8000*l.* came into the coffers of the knights. Of the revenues which supported the order, France, at the time of the suppression of the French langue, had confiscated 58,000*l.* annually, and Spain 27,000*l.* The property of the order in Lombardy and Piedmont had also been confiscated, so that of their former income of 130,000*l.* only 27,000*l.* was now left, a revenue evidently insufficient to keep up the fortifications, or maintain the security of the island. The order of Malta was therefore extinct as a power, and must necessarily come under the influence and into the pay of France. In adverting to



other points of the treaty, he observed, that our sovereignty in India had not been recognised, while the Cape of Good Hope, a station of the first importance to that sovereignty, had been ceded. In the Mediterranean, where our naval superiority was most important, we had dispossessed ourselves, not only of Malta, but of Minorca, and even of the isle of Elba, which France wanted, merely to exclude us from the port of Leghorn. Every object of importance obtained by the valour of our navy had been ceded to France; and ministers had at the same time disclaimed the plea of necessity for peace, which could alone have justified such enormous sacrifices. He concluded a most severe and elaborate investigation of the terms of the treaty, by moving that an humble address should be presented to his Majesty, acknowledging his prerogative to make peace and war, but declaring that it was impossible for the House to see without alarm the circumstances that had attended the conclusion of the present treaty, by which sacrifices had been made on the part of this country, without any corresponding concessions on that of France; that in the moment of peace France had exhibited indubitable proofs of the most ambitious projects; that these considerations imposed on government the necessity of adopting measures of precaution; and that, whilst that House relied on his Majesty's wisdom to be watchful of the power of France, they thought it necessary to assure him of their ready and firm support in resisting every encroachment on the rights of the British empire. The treaty was censured also by the Duke of Richmond, Earl Darnley, and Lord Caernarvon; and defended by Lords Auckland, Pelham, and Hobart, the Lord-Chancellor, and

the Earls of Westmoreland and Roslyn. The motion of Lord Grenville was at length negatived by 122 against 16.

On the same day, the terms of the definitive treaty underwent a discussion equally animated in the House of Commons. Mr. Windham, in a speech of peculiar energy, which occupied upwards of three hours in the delivery, attacked the stipulations of the treaty in all their parts; concluding by moving an address similar to that proposed in the House of Peers by Lord Grenville. The debate was prolonged to a very late hour, Lords Temple and Folkstone, Mr. Thomas Grenville, and a few others, passionately inveighing against the terms of the peace, which were on the other hand defended by the Whigs, though on grounds considerably different from those taken by ministers. Mr. Sheridan closed the debate with a speech of great animation. He remarked that the discussion of the necessary, though disgraceful treaty of peace, furnished the best defence of the conduct of those who had uniformly opposed the war. For his part he supported the peace, because he supposed it the best that ministers could obtain. Their predecessors had left them to choose between an expensive, bloody, fruitless war, and a hollow, perilous peace. For the attainment of what object or purpose, Mr. Sheridan inquired, did we go to war?—To prevent French aggrandisement. Have we done that?—No. We were at least to rescue Holland. Is that accomplished?—No. But the recovery of Flanders and Brabant, we pronounced a *sine qua non*. Are they recovered?—No. Then came security and indemnity. Are they obtained?—No. The late minister told us, that the example of a jacobin government in Europe, founded on the ruins of a holy altar, and the tomb of

a martyred monarch, was a spectacle so dreadful and infectious to Christendom, that we could never be safe while it existed, and it was our duty to put forth our last effort for its destruction. For these fine words, which had at last given way to *security* and *indemnity*, we had sacrificed nearly 200,000 lives, and expended 300,000,000*l.* of money—and had gained Ceylon and Trinidad, which might henceforth be named the Indemnity and Security Islands. He admitted the splendid talents of the late minister, but he had misapplied them in the government of this country. He had augmented our debt, diminished our population, abridged our privileges, and had done more to strengthen the power of the crown at the expense of the constitution, than any minister who had ever conducted the affairs of this country. The House at length divided on Mr. Windham's address, when the majority in favour of the treaty amounted to 276 against 20.

The remainder of the session was occupied by a great variety of public business, among which a most important act was passed for consolidating the existing militia laws, and for augmenting that force to 70,000 men, the proportion for Scotland being fixed at 10,000. The sum of 10,500*l.* was voted to Dr. Edward Jenner, for the promulgation of his invaluable discovery of the system of vaccine inoculation, by which it was hoped ultimately to extirpate the small pox. A reward of 1200*l.* was also voted to Mr. Henry Greathead, for the invention of the life boat; and 5000*l.* to Dr. James Carmichael Smyth, for his discovery of the nitrous fumigation, for preventing the progress of contagious disorders. On the 28th of June, the last day of the session, the new speaker presented the money bills to his Majesty, and on the

day following Parliament was dissolved by proclamation.

During the negotiation of the definitive treaty, the French government determined to attempt the recovery of their colonies of St. Domingo and Guadaloupe from the armed negroes by whom they were at present held. For this purpose, a strong military and naval force had been for some time preparing at the ports of Brest, Rochefort, and L'Orient; and Buonaparte found it necessary to transmit to the British government express assurances that its purpose was to take possession of the colonies, and suppress the insurrection. He sought to quell the revolutionary spirit which his democratic predecessors had propagated in that quarter, and which had animated the negroes of St. Domingo under Toussaint L'Ouverture, and those of Guadaloupe under Pelagie, to assert and vindicate their claims to liberty and equality as members of the indivisible French republic. He was desirous to put an end to a state of anarchy, which was pregnant with the most appalling dangers, not only to the French colonists, but to those of every other European power. The British ministry, receiving these assurances, consented to the sailing of the armament before the conclusion of the definitive treaty; and accordingly a fleet of eighteen French and five Spanish ships of the line, having on board 25,000 troops under General Le Clerc, put to sea on the 14th of December. Admiral Mitchell, who was then stationed at Bantry Bay, with seven sail of the line, was ordered to follow them, and observe their motions; but on learning whither they were destined, a mutiny broke out among the men in some of the vessels, which, however, was soon suppressed, and the squadron proceeded to the West Indies to reinforce the

protecting fleets on that station. Fourteen of the ringleaders were capitally condemned and executed.

Whilst the rest of Europe was enjoying tranquillity, Switzerland became the scene of commotion. A new constitution being accepted by one party and resisted by the other, and bloodshed having ensued, the Helvetic government was induced to solicit the mediation of France, when Buonaparte, availing himself of so plausible a pretext, sent an army into the country, and issued an arrogant proclamation, commanding the senate to assemble at Berne, and to send deputies to Paris ; ordering at the same time all authorities constituted since the commencement of the troubles to cease to act, and all armed bodies to disperse. The diet of Schweitz, however, as the supreme representative body of the Swiss union, remained at their post, hoping for the interference of foreign powers ; but Great Britain alone manifested an interest in their behalf. An English resident was sent to Constance, empowered to promise pecuniary assistance if the people were determined to defend their country ; but the approach of the French troops had compelled the diet to dissolve ; Aloys Reding, and other patriots, were arrested and imprisoned ; and the independence of Switzerland, which had been guarantied in the treaty of Luneville, was annihilated by the power whose mediation she had solicited. In September Piedmont was formally annexed to France, and Turin, its capital, was degraded into a provincial city of the republic. In October the King of Spain annexed to the royal domains all the property of the knights of Malta in his dominions, and declared himself grand-master of the order in Spain. This step was supposed to have been taken at the suggestion of the French government. Thus the order of St. John

was diminished by the suppression of three langues those of Arragon, Castile, and Navarre ; and thus was the treaty of Amiens vitiated, because that order was now no longer the corporate body to whom the island of Malta was to be ceded in full sovereignty.

Buonaparte, while using every effort to extend his influence abroad, was no less anxious to strengthen his power at home ; and a proposal having been made in the conservative senate that he should be declared first consul for life, the question was referred to the people, and carried by an immense majority. A second question, whether he should have the power of appointing his successor, was decided by the senate in the affirmative, and he was now an hereditary monarch in every thing but the name. He imposed a new constitution on France, by which he invested himself with the right of making war or peace ; of ratifying treaties ; of pardoning in all cases ; of presenting the names of the other two consuls to the senate ; of nominating all inferior officers ; of appointing, by his own authority, 40 of the 120 members composing the senate ; and of prescribing to that body the subjects on which alone it was competent to deliberate. The other departments of the state were equally subservient to his will ; so that having utterly destroyed the liberty of the press, he might be said to govern the republic by means of an enormous standing army, and a numerous inquisitorial police. Aware that to the former he was indebted for his present elevation, he had for some time contemplated the formation of a military order of nobility, under the designation of the *Legion of Honour*, and the legislature, in obedience to his will, decreed its establishment. The legion was to be composed of fifteen cohorts, and a council of administration ; each cohort to consist of 7 grand officers, 20 commandants,

30 subordinate officers, and 350 legionaries ; the first consul always to be the chief, and the members to be appointed for life, each with proportionate salaries. Joseph Buonaparte, the brother of the first consul, was elected grand-master.

In the West Indies alone was Buonaparte at this period unsuccessful. He had, indeed, recovered Guadaloupe, after a sanguinary resistance, and had at first met with some success in St. Domingo, Toussaint L'Ouverture having been induced to submit under promise of pardon ; scarcely, however, had he signed the capitulation, when, on a vague and improbable charge of conspiring against the French government, he was seized in the midst of his family, and with them immediately shipped on board a frigate for France. On his arrival he was, without trial or examination, thrown into prison, where the following year terminated his existence, and there is little doubt that he was privately put to death by order of the first consul. On the seizure of Toussaint, the negro generals Dessalines and Christophe, who had also surrendered, justly fearing to share the fate of their unfortunate colleague, saved themselves by flight ; the insurgents again every where assembled ; the climate effectually aided their efforts, and General Le Clerc himself at length fell a victim to its malignity. General Rochambeau succeeded to the command early in November, when a furious and bloody conflict recommenced ; the negro generals recovered possession of the whole island, excepting a few maritime towns and naval ports, of which the French with extreme difficulty maintained possession, being assailed at once with the sword, disease, and famine ; and a country of inestimable value, which by measures of moderation and conciliation, might in all probability have been preserved to

France, appeared irrecoverably lost. In Tobago, when intelligence arrived that the island was to be restored to France, the people of colour flew to arms, and determined to attack the British troops under Brigadier-general Carmichael, who had under his command only 200 men; but having gained intelligence of the plot, he seized thirty of the ringleaders, and the French took possession of the island in virtue of the treaty of Amiens. In Dominica a serious alarm was created by the mutiny of an entire regiment of blacks, who, in the first transport of their fury, put to death Captain Cameron and several other officers; but they were at length totally routed. Whilst these contests prevailed, the French legislative body abrogated the decree of the national convention, declaring that negro slavery in all the colonies was abolished; and the slave trade was renewed with all the encouragement which this detestable traffic enjoyed under the old French government.

Towards the close of the year a treasonable plot was discovered, of which Colonel Edward Marcus Despard, who had distinguished himself in the service of his country, was the head, and indeed the only individual of any consideration in the conspiracy. The object was the death of the King, and the subversion of the constitution; but the means by which these traitorous designs were to be effected were so little adapted to the magnitude of the enterprise, that it seemed scarcely possible that the design should have originated with any man in a sane state of mind. On the 16th of November, the colonel and 29 labouring men and soldiers were apprehended at the Oakley Arms, in Lambeth; and on the 7th of February, 1803, the former was arraigned before a special commission for high-treason. After a trial which lasted nearly eigh-



teen hours, and in which very honourable testimony was given to the conduct of Colonel Despard as an officer, while in the army, by Lord Nelson, Sir Alured Clarke, and Sir Evan Nepean, he was found guilty, but earnestly recommended to mercy, on account of the high testimonials to his former good character, and eminent services. On the 9th the court proceeded on the trials of twelve other prisoners, and after an investigation which continued till the following morning, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against John Wood, Thomas Broughton, John Francis, Thomas Newman, Daniel Tyndall, J. Sedgwick Wratten, William Lander, Arthur Graham, and John Macnamara; recommending Lander, Newman, and Tyndall, to mercy. Thomas Phillips and Samuel Smith were acquitted, and the charge against John Doyle was abandoned. On the 21st Colonel Despard, and the six accomplices not recommended to mercy, were executed with the usual forms in cases of high treason; and thus terminated a conspiracy so unexampled in the weakness and paucity of its means, as to have been incapable of exciting that alarm which would fully justify the severity with which it was visited.

The new Parliament assembled on the 16th of November, and on the 23d the session was opened with a speech from the throne, in which the King observed, that in his intercourse with foreign powers, he had been actuated by a sincere desire for the maintenance of peace; but that it was nevertheless impossible to lose sight of that established and wise system of policy by which the interests of other states are connected with our own; and that he could not be indifferent to any material change in the relative condition and strength of those states. He expressed his conviction that Parliament would concur in the opinion, that it

was necessary to adopt those means of security which were best calculated to afford the prospect of preserving the blessings of peace. The presage conveyed in this intimation was soon afterwards confirmed by proposals for augmenting the naval and military force of the country. The attention of Parliament, until the Christmas recess, was chiefly occupied by financial arrangements, and by a bill introduced into the House of Peers by Lord Pelham, for appointing commissioners to inquire into frauds and abuses existing in the naval departments.

Already the communications between France and England portended hostility. The extent of Buonaparte's authority at home only served to render him more impatient of contradiction abroad ; and as he had succeeded in subduing all opposition in his own territories, he had the presumption to imagine that he could as easily silence the voice of reproach in foreign countries. The success, indeed, which had attended all his attempts in the different states of the continent, seemed to justify this opinion. He had brought his negotiations in Germany, consequent on the peace of Luneville, to a successful termination ; and, having rendered Russia and Prussia the tools of his power, made his will the law ; plundered, at his pleasure, the ecclesiastical princes of the empire, to indemnify those whose territories he had seized on the French side of the Rhine, and taken care to reward, most amply, those wretched potentates who had displayed the most cowardly subserviency to his interests. Among these, the petty sovereigns of Baden and Wirtemburgh were raised by him to the dignity of electors, as preparatory to their subsequent elevation to the rank of kings. He had been equally successful in reviving the ancient jealousy between the Prussian monarch and the Em-

peror of Germany. The former of these sovereigns, intent on the humiliation of a rival no longer formidable, and on the pursuit of petty schemes of personal aggrandizement, enlarged the influence and power of an implacable enemy, and prepared the way for his own destruction. In Italy, also, Buonaparte had assumed the sovereignty, under the denomination of President of the Italian republic, for such was the title now adopted by the Cisalpine republic. He had united the kingdom of Sardinia and the duchy of Parma to France; and he had taken effectual means for rivetting the chains of Switzerland. Possessed of power so extensive, and inflated by success so unexpected, Buonaparte was little solicitous to afford proofs of a pacific disposition to the only enemy who had resisted his efforts with effect. In fact, the stand which England alone had made against his towering ambition, had severely galled his pride, and increased the inveteracy of his hatred.

With this disposition Buonaparte betrayed, in all his communications with the British cabinet, an overbearing and insupportable pride. First to Otto, and afterwards to his ambassador, General Andreossi, he sent instructions to complain of the freedom of those animadversions, which the public writers of Great Britain passed on his character and conduct; and those complaints were reiterated as well by Talleyrand, as by the first consul himself, to Lord Whitworth, who, in November, 1802, repaired to Paris as ambassador to the French court. In all the communications which took place on this subject, Buonaparte betrayed a petulance utterly incompatible with the new character which he had to support, and a profound ignorance of the laws and constitution of this country. He could not be persuaded, that the Bri-

tish government were unable to exercise, over the press, the same unlimited power, the same boundless tyranny, which he himself exercised over every public writer throughout his vast dominions. It was impossible to make him understand, that, in England, the ministers were subject to the same legal restraints as the lowest subject of the realm; that they could proceed only according to the forms of law; and that, if what the law deemed a libel should be uttered, or written, against the first potentate in Europe, he must, in order to punish the offender, have recourse to the same modes of proceeding which are prescribed to Englishmen themselves, under similar circumstances. From general complaints, he descended to particulars; and, in the autumn of 1802, directed his agent, Otto, to prefer charges against certain English public writers, and against Peltier, who conducted a journal, in the French language, intituled *L'Ambigu*. Although, as Lord Hawkesbury had pertinently observed, in his instructions to Mr. Merry, who was then at Paris, the French press poured forth constant libels against the English government; libels, too, authorized by the French cabinet; although Rheinhardt, the Jacobin representative of Buonaparte at Hamburgh, had violated the neutrality of the Senate, and had compelled them to insert a most virulent attack upon the English government, in the Hamburgh paper; although Buonaparte himself had publicly uttered similar libels; and although, to use the words of Lord Hawkesbury, it might, indeed, with truth be asserted, that the period which had elapsed since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, had been marked with "one continued series of aggression, violence, and insult, on the part of the French government;" so ardent was the desire of the

British ministers to gratify Buonaparte, and so averse were they from the adoption of any line of conduct which could have even a tendency to produce a renewal of hostilities between the two countries, that they instructed the attorney-general to file a criminal information against Peltier. The cause was tried before Lord Ellenborough, on the 21st of February, 1803, and the defendant was convicted; but the renewal of hostilities was allowed to secure him from punishment. At the very time when this extraordinary trial was pending, the difference between the two governments was such as to render hostilities unavoidable. At the latter end of February, Lord Whitworth had an interview with Buonaparte, in which the latter so far forgot himself, as personally to insult the British ambassador, and to threaten his government, in the presence of other diplomatic characters. On this occasion he openly avowed his ambitious designs, and clearly developed his views upon Egypt, whither he had dispatched a Corsican officer, named Sebastiani, in the ostensible character of a commercial agent, to seize every opportunity for promoting the French interest in the Levant; boldly justified his unprincipled usurpations in Switzerland, Piedmont, and Italy, and peremptorily insisted on the immediate evacuation of Malta, as the *sine qua non* of continued peace. By the treaty of Amiens, the King had stipulated to restore, within a given time, the island of Malta to the order of St. John, under the express guarantee of its independence and neutrality by the principal powers of Europe. Circumstances, however, tending to destroy the independence of the order itself, by depriving it of a considerable portion of its revenue, had subsequently arisen, which rendered it highly imprudent to carry

that article of the treaty into effect. Besides, the stipulation had been made with a reference to the relative situation of the contracting parties, at the time of concluding the treaty. That situation had experienced a material change, by the fresh acquisitions of territory which Buonaparte had afterwards made, and by the consequent addition of power which he had secured. His intentions, too, to dismember the Turkish empire, and to monopolize the commerce of the Levant, objects against which specific provisions were made in the treaty, were too notorious not to call for measures of adequate precaution on the part of Great Britain, whose ministers, indeed, were almost to blame for having carried a system of conciliation and concession to so great a length. At last, the inutility of every attempt to induce Buonaparte to listen to the claims of justice became so obvious, that the British ambassador received orders to return to England, and he accordingly left Paris on the 12th of May, 1803; the declaration of the British cabinet was published on the 18th.

After the Christmas recess, the restriction of the Bank from payments in specie was again renewed, but not without considerable opposition, particularly in the House of Lords; and on a message from the King, recommending the embarrassed state of the Prince of Wales to the consideration of Parliament, a proposition was moved by Mr. Addington for granting to his Royal Highness, out of the consolidated fund, the annual sum of 60,000*l.* for three years and a half. This sum, though the Prince expressed his gratitude for the liberality of Parliament, was not sufficient to meet all his engagements, and Mr. Calcraft moved that he should be enabled immediately

to resume his state and dignity, but it was rejected by 184 to 139 ; and the original proposition passed unanimously.

On the 8th of March his Majesty sent a message to Parliament, announcing that very considerable military preparations were carrying on in the ports of France and Holland ; and that he had therefore judged it expedient to adopt additional measures of precaution for the security of his dominions. It was added, that though the preparations referred to were avowedly directed to colonial service, yet as discussions of great importance were then subsisting between his Majesty and the French government, the result of which must be uncertain, it was necessary to make such provision as circumstances might require. An address was unanimously voted, and a resolution was afterwards passed for raising 10,000 additional seamen, including 3400 marines. A subsequent message to Parliament announced the King's intention to call out the militia ; and, after some succeeding weeks of suspense, it was stated in another, on the 16th of May, that the King had recalled his ambassador from Paris ; that the French minister had left London ; and that his Majesty had given directions for laying before the House of Commons, with as little delay as possible, copies of such papers as would afford the fullest information at this important conjuncture. The message was taken into consideration in the House of Lords on the 23d of May, when Lord Pelham moved the address. The only question was, he observed, whether a distinct and legitimate ground of war was established by the correspondence now on the table. Without going minutely into these documents, he should briefly advert to the principal points in dispute between the two governments ; and, first, with respect

to Malta. It would be seen from the papers on the table, that up to a given period, his Majesty's ministers had taken every step to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty relating to this island. It was about the 27th of January that the French government began to press, in a very peremptory manner, for its evacuation ; and it was about that period, that ministers thought themselves bound to demand some satisfactory explanations of the pretensions advanced, and the views disclosed, by the French government. Circumstances then existed, which rendered it necessary to refer back to what had been the conduct of the first consul, from the period when the treaty was concluded. In the course of this view, the plain and intelligible inference was, that the conduct of the French government had been one constant series of acts totally inconsistent with a sincere desire to preserve the peace of the two countries. The answers returned by ministers to the complaints of the French government, regarding the liberty of the British press, the residence of the Bourbons, and the countenance afforded by this country to French emigrants, would be found in the correspondence, and he entertained a confident expectation that the language of ministers, on those subjects, was of a nature to meet with universal support and approbation. They had shown, his lordship said, the utmost reluctance to resort to any measure which might hasten a renewal of hostilities ; but the conduct of the French government could no longer be tolerated, consistently with the honour, dignity, and safety of this country. War, then, had become inevitable ; and it was a war in which the national spirit ought to be exerted in every way which would demonstrate, to a proud and insolent foe, that while the people of England were not anxious for



an opportunity of taking offence, they were sensibly alive to the least imputation of dishonour, and determined on punishing insults with the most exemplary vengeance. The Dukes of Cumberland and Clarence, Lords Mulgrave, Melville, Spencer, and others, spoke in favour of the motion, which was carried by 142 against 10.

The question was discussed in the Commons on the same day, and continued on the following. Lord Hawkesbury opened the debate in a very able speech, in which he enumerated all the subjects of complaint against France, and concluded with moving an address, assuring his Majesty of the just sense that House entertained of his anxious and uniform endeavours to preserve to his people the blessings of peace ; and of their strong feelings of indignation that these endeavours had been frustrated by the restless spirit of ambition and domination in the government of France. Mr. Erskine combated the statements of Lord Hawkesbury, and was followed by Mr. Grey, who moved an amendment, limiting the address to assurances of co-operation, and an expression of the satisfaction with which the House received his Majesty's declaration, that he was willing to afford, as far as might be consistent with his own honour, and the interests of his people, every facility to any just arrangement, by which the blessings of peace might be restored.

In supporting the address, Mr. Pitt expressed his conviction, that some system, far more vigorous and effectual than any which had yet been adopted, would be found necessary, both in our finances, and in the preparation for national defence. On the provisions to be made for these two primary and paramount objects, it would principally depend, in his estimation,

whether we could effectually disconcert the favourite projects, and disappoint the main hopes, of our enemies. It was evident, that if they indulged themselves in any expectation of success in the present contest, it was built chiefly on the supposition that they could either break the spirit, or shake the determination, of the country, by harassing us with the perpetual apprehension of descent upon our coasts, or that they could impair our resources, and undermine our credit, by the effects of an expensive and protracted contest. To defeat the first of these purposes, it was not, in his judgment, sufficient to make those naval and military preparations which would prevent any invasion from being ultimately successful; (an event which, he trusted, he was justified, in common with others, in considering as utterly impossible;) but to make such vigorous and extensive arrangements for national defence, as might enable every individual to lay down his head in rest, in the persuasion and confidence that nothing was omitted which could enable us at once to meet and repel the danger, at any moment, and in any quarter, in which it might threaten us. In order to defeat the second object, that of wearing out our resources, Mr. Pitt trusted the House would, from the beginning, form a system of finance, not only with a view to the expense which might be necessary in the first year of the contest, but that they would look, at once, to the possibility of its being protracted to as long a period as that which had been lately terminated—that they would consider fully what, on the probable scale of the war, would be the whole extent of the burdens necessary to be imposed, on that supposition. He was persuaded, that it could only be by providing, at the outset, means adequate to the whole extent of these purposes, that we could,

in fact, prevent the ultimate amount of our expenses from being unnecessarily, and perhaps intolerably, augmented; or that we could insure the best chances, either of bringing the contest to a speedy conclusion, by convincing the enemy of our ability to maintain it, or of meeting its continued exigencies, if necessary, without the annual recurrence of growing and accumulated embarrassments. He trusted, therefore, that ministers would feel the necessity of bringing both these points under consideration, with all practicable dispatch; and that, if possible, not even a fortnight might be suffered to elapse, without enabling Parliament to adopt such measures as would convince both France and the world, that we had, from that hour, provided the means of supporting the force, and of defraying the expenditure, which might be necessary for the maintenance of our internal security, and for the vigorous and effectual prosecution of the war to any period to which it could be reasonably expected to extend. He was aware that these measures could not be effected without extensive personal sacrifices, and great additional burdens, which must, in a certain degree, affect the ease, convenience, and even comfort of many classes of society. He lamented these consequences as much as any man; but, under the present circumstances, a weak and timid policy would, perhaps, scarcely even postpone the moment when they would become indispensable for our existence, and would infallibly expose us to the certainty of a similar struggle, at no distant period, without those means which we now possessed, and with a diminished chance of finally conducting it to a successful issue. At that moment, we had not an option between the blessings of peace, and the dangers of war. From the fatality of the times, and the general

state of the world, Mr. Pitt observed, we must consider our lot as cast, by the decrees of Providence, in a time of peril and trouble. He trusted the temper and the courage of the nation would be conformable to the duties which such a situation imposed ; that we should be prepared, collectively and individually, to meet it with that resignation and fortitude, and, at the same time, with that active zeal and exertion, which, in proportion to the magnitude of the crisis, might be expected from a brave and free people ; and that we should remember, even in the hour of trial, what abundant reason we had to be grateful to Providence for the distinction which we enjoyed over most of the countries of Europe, and for all the advantages and blessings which national wisdom and virtue had hitherto produced, and which it now depended on perseverance in the same just and honourable sentiments, still to guard and preserve. The address was agreed to, by 398 against 67.

Mr. Fox, three or four days afterwards, moved an address to his Majesty, praying that he would be graciously pleased to avail himself of the disposition manifested by the Emperor of Russia, to mediate between this country and the French government, which might not only lead to the speedy and honourable termination of the present contest, but might conduce to the general tranquillity and safety of Europe. Among the advantages which must result from this mediation, Mr. Fox particularly urged the consideration, that if this country should be obliged to prosecute the war for the attainment of any object which that powerful and esteemed sovereign should approve, Great Britain would have the strong support afforded by his approbation, which would carry with it the opinion of the world. Lord Hawkesbury admitted,

that an offer to mediate between Britain and France had already been made by Russia. The impression on the mind of the Emperor Alexander was, that there was a certain degree of reluctance on the part of the two governments, to explain distinctly the points of mutual dispute; and he had accordingly proposed, that the Russian ministers at London and Paris should interpose their good offices for facilitating this explanation; but at the time this offer was made, Lord Whitworth was on the eve of quitting Paris, and, looking to an immediate termination of the discussions, ministers considered the offer as too loose, and too general, to be then adopted. At the same time, they did not conceal from the court of St. Petersburg, and they were as little desirous of concealing from the House, that with reference not only to the particular points in dispute between the two governments, but to the establishment of a guarantee for the general independence and security of Europe, they were ready to accept of the mediation of Russia. Mr. Fox, considering this explanation as perfectly satisfactory, withdrew his motion.

At this time the existing administration were highly obnoxious to what was called the Grenville party, and Mr. Pitt and his friends began to manifest towards them unequivocal marks of coldness. On the 2d of June, Earl Fitzwilliam moved, in the Upper House of Parliament, a series of resolutions censuring the conduct of ministers, in withholding from Parliament information on the numberless aggressions and insults offered by the French government to this country, since the treaty of Amiens, and in holding out the prospect of a permanent peace, at a period when they must have been aware that the continuance of the relations of amity was, in the highest degree, uncer-

tain and precarious. Lord Mulgrave, to the infinite mortification of ministers, moved, as an amendment, the adjournment of the House: both the original motion and the amendment were, however, rejected by vast majorities. A similar motion was made on the following day in the House of Commons, by Colonel Patten, and with similar success. On the 6th of June Earl Fitzwilliam brought the subject again before the House, and moved a number of resolutions, varying in form, but in substance the same as those before rejected; the last of which stated that his Majesty's ministers had proved themselves unworthy of the confidence of the House, and incapable of administering with advantage the public affairs of the country, in a crisis of such unexampled difficulty and danger. The first of these resolutions was negatived by 86 against 17, and the others without a division.

The remainder of this session was chiefly occupied by subjects of finance, and with devising the means of providing for the defence of the country against the threatened invasion. The first and most obvious measure was to render the militia, the constitutional defence of the country, as effective as possible, and a bill for that purpose was brought into the House of Commons, by the secretary at war, on the 20th of May, which passed through its several stages without any material opposition. But the militia being considered inadequate to the defence of the realm, a message from the crown was sent to Parliament on the 18th of June, stating, that his Majesty considered it important for the safety and defence of the nation, that a large additional military force should be forthwith raised and assembled, and it was recommended to both Houses to take such measures as should appear to be most effectual for accomplishing this purpose

with the least possible delay. A bill was immediately brought into Parliament for embodying a new species of militia, under the denomination of the army of reserve, to consist of 50,000 men for England, and 10,000 for Ireland, to be raised by ballot, and confined to the defence of the united kingdom : the officers to be appointed from the regular army, and the half-pay list : all persons from the age of eighteen to forty-five to be liable to serve, with the exception of those who were exempt from the militia ballot, and such volunteers as were enrolled previously to the date of the last message of his Majesty : all poor persons having more than one child under ten years of age were also exempt : the persons composing this force to be allowed to volunteer into the regular army. On the 6th of July, this bill obtained the royal assent. But these measures of defence, however important, were only the precursors of one of the most gigantic magnitude, being no less than arming and training of the whole effective male population of Great Britain. This project was presented to the consideration of Parliament on the 18th of July, and passed into a law by receiving the royal assent, on the 27th of the same month. This general enrolment, denominated the levy *en masse*, was divided into four different classes ; the first comprehended all unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 30 ; the second, unmarried men between 30 and 50 ; the third, all married men between 17 and 30, not having more than two children under ten years of age ; and the fourth, all under the age of 55, not comprised in the other descriptions. The different classes, who were to be trained and taught the use of arms in their respective parishes, were, in case of actual invasion, liable to be called out by his Majesty, in the orders specified, to co-ope-

rate with the regular army in any part of the kingdom, and to remain embodied until the enemy should be exterminated or driven into the sea.

On the 13th of June, the chancellor of the exchequer brought forward the budget; he proposed to raise, by an increase of the customs, duties on sugar, exports, cotton, and tonnage, about 2,000,000*l.* annually; and by new duties on the excise of tea, wine, spirits, and malt, 6,000,000*l.* more. He then presented a plan of a tax on income, imposing a duty on land of one shilling in the pound, to be paid by the landlord, and ninepence in the pound, to be paid by the tenant, together with a tax of one shilling in the pound on all other species of income from 150*l.* upwards. The nett produce of this revived property tax was calculated at 4,700,000*l.*, and the whole product of the war taxes at 12,700,000*l.* annually, to expire six months after the return of peace. In addition to these grants the other taxes were continued, and the whole of the supplies voted by Parliament for the service of the year 1803, amounted to upwards of 41,000,000*l.*

At this time the preparations for invading Britain, made by France, called forth a simultaneous burst of loyalty and patriotism from all classes and descriptions of persons; and in a very brief interval, upwards of 400,000 men in arms appeared ready to defend their native coasts. So numerous, indeed, were these voluntary armed associations, that it rendered the act for raising the levy *en masse* perfectly superfluous. Buonaparte viewed, with astonishment, this extraordinary display of national energy and patriotic feeling; and though his preparations for invasion were continued, the intention of carrying them into effect is thought to have been secretly abandoned. In ad-



dition to the grand fleet at Brest, which was supposed to be destined for the invasion of Ireland, an immense number of transports and gun-boats had been ordered to be built, with the greatest expedition, in the French ports, under the idea that some thousands of them might force their way across the Channel, in spite of the British navy; and, in the course of the year, a sufficient flotilla was assembled at Boulogne, to carry over any army that France might think proper to employ in this desperate enterprise.

During the discussions in the House of Commons, Mr. Windham had taken occasion to express himself in terms of great asperity and contempt towards the volunteer corps of the country, whom, on one occasion, he termed the depositaries of panic. To obviate any supposition that these sentiments were generally concurred in, Mr. Sheridan, on the 10th of August, moved the thanks of the House to the volunteer and yeomanry corps of Great Britain, for the zeal and promptitude with which they had associated for the defence of the country. He also moved, that returns of the different volunteer corps be laid before the House, in order that they might be handed down to posterity, by being entered on the journals. Both these motions were agreed to unanimously; and, on the 12th of August, this session was closed by a speech from the throne, on which occasion his Majesty expressed his satisfaction at the energy and promptitude which had been displayed in providing for the defence of the country, and for the vigorous prosecution of the war; assuring the House, at the same time, that as strict a regard would be paid to economy in the public expenditure, as was consistent with the exertions necessary to frustrate the designs, and weaken the power, of the enemy. At this interesting period

his Royal Highness ~~the~~ Prince of Wales addressed a letter to the prime minister, urging upon him the propriety of investing him with an efficient military rank, and of placing him in a situation where his example might contribute to excite the loyal energies of the nation, and where his participation in the honours and dangers which awaited the brave defenders of the country, might keep those energies in vigorous activity. In reply to repeated applications on this subject, he was informed, that, should the implacable enemy so far succeed as to effect a landing, his Royal Highness would have an opportunity of showing his zeal at the head of his regiment ; but, upon public grounds, his Majesty could never permit the Prince of Wales to consider the army as a profession, or to allow of his being promoted in the service.

In the course of the session just terminated, an act was passed to relieve the Roman Catholics from certain penalties and disabilities to which they were before subject, on subscribing the declaration and oath contained in the act of the 31st of the reign of his present Majesty. An important addition was also made to the criminal law of the country : by an act introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Ellenborough, and on that account called the Ellenborough act, any person guilty of maliciously shooting, cutting, or stabbing, with an intent to commit murder, although death should not ensue, was declared guilty of a capital felony, and made subject to the punishment of death. The same penalty was also attached to all attempts to discharge loaded fire-arms with an intent to kill or wound.

About this time, Ireland once more became the theatre of rebellion, the instigators of which were a

band of political enthusiasts, whose director and principal mover was Mr. Robert Emmett, a young man of specious and promising talents, the brother of Thomas Eddis Emmett, who took a prominent part in the rebellion of 1798. He had been so unguarded in his conduct, while the late disturbances existed, as to become an object of the vigilance of government, and had found it prudent to reside abroad so long as the *habeas corpus* act was suspended; but on the removal of that obstacle he returned to Ireland, and arrived there in December, 1802. The death of Dr. Emmett, his father, one of the state physicians in Dublin, had placed the sum of 2000*l.* at his disposal; and with this exchequer he proposed to himself the subversion of the government of Ireland. Though the persons immediately connected with Emmett, Russell, Dowdall, and Coigley, the principals in the plot, did not exceed from 80 to 100, yet these infatuated men were so sanguine as to suppose that the spirit of rebellion would, at their bidding, pervade the whole kingdom; and the usual intimation, the stoppage of the mail coaches, was to be the signal of revolt in the country, while the first object of the insurgents in the metropolis was to secure the seat of government, and the principal persons engaged in its administration. For some days previous to the fatal explosion, information had been conveyed to government of threatening assemblages of the people; and other indications tended to awaken a suspicion that a *rising*, as it was termed, was in agitation. On the morning of Saturday, the 23d of July, the day appointed for this momentous enterprise, unusual crowds of peasants were observed on the great south road to Dublin; the city continued to fill during the whole of the day; and towards evening the populace began to assemble in vast numbers

in St. James's Street and its neighbourhood, without having any visible arrangement or discipline. The next object was to arm the body thus collected, for which purpose pikes were deliberately placed along the sides of the streets, for the accommodation of all who might choose to equip themselves. The inhabitants during this alarming scene were panic-struck, and seeing no prospect of succour or protection, withdrew within their houses, barred their doors and windows, and implored the protection of Providence. About nine o'clock the concerted signal, that all was in readiness, was given by a number of men riding furiously through the principal streets; but general alarm was not excited until Mr. Clarke, the proprietor of a considerable manufactory in the neighbourhood of Dublin, and who had that afternoon apprized government of the intention of the insurgents, was shot at and dangerously wounded. About this period a small piece of ordnance, which had been in readiness for the purpose, was discharged, and a sky-rocket let off at the same moment so as to be observed throughout the whole city. Mr. Emmett, at the head of his chosen band, now sallied forth from the obscurity of his head-quarters in Marshalsea Lane, and brandishing his sword in the street, excited his followers to action. Before they had reached the end of the lane in which they were assembled, one of the party discharged his blunderbuss at Colonel Browne, who was passing along the street, when the ball unhappily took effect, and thus perished a most respectable and meritorious officer. From this period, it is remarkable, nothing more is heard of Emmett, or any of his brother conspirators, till we find them beneath the power of the offended justice of their country.

The circumstance from which this commotion de-

rived a degree of consequence far beyond that which would naturally belong to the ordinary acts of turbulence in a disaffected country, and in an ill-regulated metropolis, was the dreadful catastrophe of the chief justice of Ireland, Lord Viscount Kilwarden. This unfortunate nobleman had, on the day of the insurrection, retired to his country seat, near four miles from Dublin, as was his custom after having passed the week in fulfilling the duties of his exalted situation. On the first intimation of the circumstances which denoted disturbance being conveyed to him, his lordship, who, ever since the period of the outrages in 1798, had been in perpetual apprehension of being surprised and assassinated by rebels, ordered out his carriage, and taking with him his daughter and his nephew, the Rev. Richard Wolfe, set off instantly for Dublin, where he expected to find protection and safety. Unfortunately the carriage appeared in Thomas Street immediately after the opening of the depot, and was surrounded by a mob of armed persons. His lordship announced his name, and earnestly prayed for mercy; but in vain. Both he and his nephew fell to the ground, pierced with innumerable wounds, but the lady was permitted to pass through the whole rebel column to the castle without molestation. About half past ten o'clock the rebels were in their turn severely attacked, and the mighty projects and elaborate preparations of the chiefs were all discomfited, in less than an hour, by about 120 soldiers.

The entire failure of the rebellious enterprise of Emmett and his associates reduced their proclamations and decrees to the standard of waste paper; and every precaution was immediately taken by the government to restore the public tranquillity. The privy council issued a proclamation, calling on the magis-

trates to unite their exertions with those of the military power, and offering a reward of 1000*l.* for the discovery and detection of the miscreants who murdered Lord Kilwarden. A reward was also offered to those who should discover the murderer of Lieutenant-colonel Browne; and an official notice was issued by the Lord-Mayor, requiring all the inhabitants of Dublin, except yeomen, to keep within doors after eight in the evening. At the same time, bills for suspending the *habeas corpus* act, and for placing Ireland under martial law, were passed with uncommon rapidity through their different stages, in the Parliament of the united kingdom. Arrangements were also made for sending large bodies of troops from England, and every measure which prudence could suggest was immediately adopted, for the preservation of the public tranquillity. On this occasion, the Roman Catholics, with Lord Fingal at their head, came forward in the most loyal and patriotic manner, and after expressing their utmost abhorrence and detestation of the enormities committed on the 23d of July, made an offer to government of their assistance and co-operation. By these and similar exertions the flame of rebellion was completely extinguished.

A special commission was issued for the trial of the rebels; and Edward Kearney, a calenderer, and Thomas Maxwell Roche, an old man, of nearly seventy years of age, were found guilty, and executed in Thomas Street, the focus of the insurrection. Several others experienced a similar fate; but the most important of these judicial proceedings was the trial of Robert Emmett, Esq. who was arraigned on the 19th of September, and found guilty on the clearest evidence. On the following day this misguided young man, only in the twenty-fourth year of his age, was

executed on a temporary gallows in Thomas Street. In the ensuing month, Mr. Thomas Russell also expiated his offences under the hands of the executioner. Coigley and Stafford were arraigned on the 29th of October; but in consideration of their having made a full disclosure of all the circumstances connected with the conspiracy, no further proceedings were had against them, nor any of the remaining prisoners.

In the West Indies, the most vulnerable part of her dominions, France did not long retain her possessions. An expedition dispatched from Barbadoes on the 20th of June, under Lieutenant-general Grinfield and Commodore Hood, captured the islands of St. Lucia and Tobago; and in September the Dutch colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, also surrendered. The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon likewise contributed to swell the conquests of Britain; and to these successes may be added that of compelling the French to abandon the valuable colony of St. Domingo. The war with the insurgent negroes had been attended with horrid cruelties on both sides, but so long as the French fleet was master of the sea, their posts on the coasts were effectually defended: on the rupture with England, however, and the consequent blockade of Cape François and other possessions, they were reduced to great difficulties; several places successively fell into the hands of the insurgents; and Fort Dauphin was taken by the English. The Cape was soon afterwards completely invested by Dessalines, with whom Rochambeau at length entered into a negociation, proposing to give up the place on being allowed to carry off the garrison. At this juncture the blockading squadron entered the roads, and a capitulation was signed, by which all the ships of war and merchant vessels belonging to France were to be

surrendered to the British, who were to receive the garrison as prisoners of war. Thus the French lost all their possessions in the island except the city of St. Domingo, the capital of that part which formerly belonged to Spain ; and the negro chieftains issued a proclamation, declaring the island free and independent.

Buonaparte, aware of the precarious tenure by which France held her colonies in the west, determined, if possible, to secure her dominions in the east, and with this view, as soon as hostilities appeared inevitable, an armament was fitted out at Brest, consisting of a strong naval force, under the command of Admiral Linois, on board of which were placed 6000 troops. This expedition sailed soon after the breaking out of the war, with orders to touch at the Cape of Good Hope, and to place that colony in such a state of defence as to be enabled to resist any attack that might be made upon it by the English. In Europe also the French armies were immediately put in motion, and the consular government, anxious to justify their conduct to the French nation, and to Europe, published a declaration, dated the 20th of May, on the causes which led to the recal of their ambassador from London, and the renewal of the war with Great Britain. Orders were issued to increase the forces of the republic to 480,000 men ; the army of Italy was considerably augmented ; and large detachments were pushed forward upon Tarentum, and on all the strong posts in the kingdom of Naples which lay on the Adriatic. During the protracted negotiations, reinforcements were ordered into Holland, and a powerful army was collected on the frontiers of Hanover. On the 25th of May, General Mortier, advancing from his head-quarters at Coever-



den, summoned the electorate to surrender to the republican army. In the attack on Hanover, Buonaparte formally professed that he should occupy that country merely as a pledge for the restoration of Malta, and endeavoured to cover this violation of the constitution and independence of the Germanic empire, by asserting that it was merely for the purpose of compelling the King of England to maintain the peace of Amiens, that he ordered his army to occupy that portion of Germany. Although it was impossible that the electorate could oppose any effectual stand against the immense power of France, the Duke of Cambridge was sent over from England as commander in chief in that country, and proclamations were issued, calling upon all the inhabitants capable of bearing arms, to rally round the standard of their country. At the latter end of May, however, a body of 10,000 French troops passed the river Ems at Mippen, and entered the principality of Osnaburgh, which had been previously evacuated. General Walmoden, to whom the command of the Hanoverian troops was intrusted, having collected an army of 18,000 men, determined to make a stand, first on the Hunte, and afterwards on the Weser, the banks of which were strongly planted with artillery; but at the moment when General Mortier had advanced into the vicinity of Nieuborg, a deputation arrived from the civil and military authorities of Hanover, entreating him to suspend his march; with which he consented to comply, on condition that the invaders should be put in possession of all the fortresses in the electorate, together with the arms, artillery, and ammunition of the enemy. It was further stipulated that the Hanoverian army should retire behind the Elbe, and engage not to serve against France or her allies during the war,

or until regularly exchanged. On the 5th of June the French took possession of the city of Hanover, where they found a prodigious quantity of artillery and ammunition. Besides the absolute value of the electorate as a conquest, which enabled the enemy to remount their cavalry, and recruit their finances, they were now masters of the navigation of the Elbe and the Weser, and being in the immediate neighbourhood of the commercial Hanse Towns of Hamburgh and Bremen, were enabled to levy considerable sums of money on those opulent cities, under the shape of loans. In consequence of these events, the British government blockaded the mouths of the Elbe and Weser, which was in some degree a retaliation on Germany for permitting the violation of its territory. This measure occasioned such distress to Hamburgh and Bremen, that they appealed to the King of Prussia, as protector of the neutrality of the northern part of the empire, but he declined to interfere; and the French were thus left to pursue their iniquitous exactions with impunity.

Contrary to her wishes and her interests, Holland was compelled to take part with France. On the 17th of June it was announced to Parliament, that the King had communicated to the Batavian government his disposition to respect their neutrality, provided the French government would do the same; but as this disposition had not been complied with, and their forces still occupied the Dutch territory, he had judged it expedient to recal his minister from the Hague, and to issue letters of marque and reprisal against the Batavian republic. Buonaparte also compelled the Italian republic to take part in the war, and he drew pecuniary assistance from Spain and Portugal in so open a manner, that it rested entirely

with the generosity of Great Britain whether they should not be considered as involved in direct acts of hostility. The supplies to his treasury derived from these sources were augmented by the sale of Louisiana to the United States for 3,000,000 of dollars. Early in the year he made a singular overture to Louis the Eighteenth at Warsaw, for the resignation of that monarch's claim to the throne of France ; which was met by a most decided and dignified refusal.

One of the first acts of the French government, after the declaration of war by England, was a step which had never before been resorted to among civilized nations, and which must always be regarded as an act of atrocious barbarity and injustice, savouring more of malice than mere political hostility. It appeared from an article published in the *Moniteur*, the official organ of the French government, that two English frigates had captured two merchant vessels in the Bay of Audierne, without any previous declaration of war, and in manifest violation of the law of nations ; in consequence of which a decree, signed by the first consul, was issued, directing, that all the English, from the age of 18 to 60, or persons holding any commissions from his Britannic Majesty, then in France, should immediately be considered prisoners of war, to answer for those citizens of the republic who had been arrested and made prisoners by the vessels or subjects of his Britannic Majesty, previously to any declaration of war. In virtue of this decree, all the nobility, commercial travellers, and others, subjects of the King of England, who had incautiously put themselves within the reach of Buonaparte in France, or were engaged in travelling through any of those countries occupied by the French armies, were either shut up in prisons, or confined to particular limits, as

prisoners of war upon their parole ; which violation of the law of nations, and of neutral hospitality, was further aggravated by a perfidious promise previously made to the English visitors, that they should enjoy the protection of the government after the departure of the British ambassador, as extensively as during his residence at Paris.

The naval campaign of the present year, in Europe, was not particularly distinguished. On the 14th of September, however, the port and town of Granville were successively attacked by Sir James Saumarez ; on which occasion the pier was demolished, and a number of vessels, intended for the invasion of England, destroyed. On the same day the town and fort of Dieppe were bombarded by Captain Owen, in the *Immortalité* frigate, with the *Theseus* and *Sulphur* bombs. The Dutch ports, from the Zandvoort, in the vicinity of Haarlem, to Scheveningen, were also severely bombarded on the 28th of September, and many vessels destroyed.

#### CHAPTER XXVII.

THE Addington administration had been regularly opposed by Lord Grenville and his friends in the Upper House, and by Mr. Windham in the Commons ; and the whigs, or old opposition party, who had supported the treaty of Amiens, conceiving that the country had been again unnecessarily involved in war, felt also little cordiality towards them. Under these circumstances a proposal was made to Mr. Pitt for his return to office, and the negotiation had made some progress, when it was broken off in consequence

of an intimation that, in the general arrangement for a new administration which he should feel it his duty to submit to his Majesty, he should include the Lords Grenville and Spencer, with other noblemen and honourable personages who had disapproved of every measure of Mr. Addington's government, and who were, in effect, adverse to the whole spirit and principle of his administration.

Parliament assembled on the 22d of November, 1803 ; and, in the speech from the throne, his Majesty, after alluding to the measures adopted for the defence of the united kingdom, and for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and adverting to the successes in the West Indies, and the suppression of the Irish rebellion, stated that a convention had been concluded with the King of Sweden, for the purpose of adjusting the differences which had arisen with that power. In reference to the threat of invasion, the King declared that as he and his brave and loyal people were embarked in one common cause, it was his fixed determination, if occasion should arise, to share their exertions and their dangers in defence of the constitution, religion, laws, and independence. The usual addresses were agreed to without opposition. In the Commons it was stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to some observations from Mr. Fox, that the offices of mediation had been offered by the court of Russia, and accepted with readiness and gratitude on the part of his Majesty's servants ; but although discussions of the greatest moment were in consequence commenced, yet in their progress they did not assume such a shape as to lead to any probability of an amicable arrangement with France.

Shortly after the commencement of the session, Mr. Secretary Yorke brought in a bill to continue two

acts; the one for suspending the *habeas corpus* act in Ireland, and the other for the re-enactment of martial law in that country. This measure, though it excited considerable debate, was carried through both Houses, without producing a single division. The debate which arose on the 9th of December, on the motion of the secretary at war, to refer the army estimates to a committee of supply, embraced an extensive view of the general defence of the country. The regular force proposed to be voted for the public service amounted to 167,000 men; the embodied militia of Great Britain and Ireland to 110,000; and the volunteer corps to upwards of 400,000 rank and file in the united kingdom. For the volunteer force of the country, of which about 45,000 served without pay, it was proposed to vote the sum of 730,000*l.* for one year. On this occasion Mr. Windham inveighed with great acrimony against the military system adopted by ministers, and pointed out the inferiority of volunteer associations and bodies of reserve, to a regular army of genuine soldiers, disciplined for offensive as well as defensive warfare. In a long and well combined speech, he attacked the whole plan of government, and concluded with declaring that the present ministers ought no longer to be intrusted with the administration of our public affairs. Mr. Pitt, in a very spirited and argumentative manner, defended the efficiency of the volunteer system: he demonstrated the capability of improvement of which it was susceptible; and suggested those means which appeared to him best calculated to advance that object: he looked upon the regular army as the great rallying point to which the volunteers must have recourse, by whose example they must be regulated, and by whose experience they must be guided. Of the amount of

the volunteer force he saw no reason to complain ; but in their distribution he could have wished that their numbers had been greater in the more exposed parts of the maritime coast. The object he had more immediately in view, was to render this force not merely nominal, but an efficient and permanent army ; and for this purpose, he was desirous that all the volunteer companies should be brought to act in battalions, and, whenever it could be accomplished, in brigades : he proposed to give to every battalion the assistance of a field officer and an adjutant ; such officers still retaining their rank and pay in the army : and with respect to the number of days for which the corps should be exercised, he was of opinion that about fifty would be sufficient for the next year, and forty for each succeeding one. The expense arising from the field-officers and adjutants, he estimated at about 160,000*l.* and that of the allowance to such volunteers as might, from their circumstances, be obliged to accept of pay, at between 3 and 400,000*l.* more, making an aggregate of about 500,000*l.* And if, for that sum, a force of nearly 400,000 men could be maintained in gradual and efficient improvement, he affirmed that this would be the cheapest item in the whole of the public expenditure. As to the sea fencibles, he looked upon them as one of the most valuable parts of our force ; and this description of service brought into activity a body of men, who, being chiefly pilots and fishermen, could neither be employed in the navy, nor permanently taken from their families.

Lord Castlereagh also made an animated reply to the objections urged by Mr. Windham against the army of reserve and the volunteer system. Out of the 35,000 already raised for the army of reserve, 7500, he said, had entered for general service. The military

force of the united kingdom was naturally divided into troops on permanent pay, and those liable to service in the event of invasion. Of the first description, there were in Great Britain, and in the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, 130,000 men; and in Ireland, 50,000. The effective rank and file of the militia in Great Britain and Ireland amounted to 84,000 men; the regular force to 96,000; of which 27,000 were for limited service, and 69,000, at this moment, disposable for general service. The next grand feature of our military strength consisted in the volunteer force, of which 340,000 men, accepted and arrayed, were at present in Great Britain; and in Ireland it amounted to 70,000; making a total of 410,000 in rank and file, in the united kingdom; to which were to be added 25,000 sea fencibles. The total amount of the whole military force at this crisis stood, therefore, at 615,000 rank and file; and if, to this number, officers of every description were added, the whole amount would not be less than 700,000 men. The number of ships of war amounted to 469; and, in aid of the regular navy, and for the purpose of defending the coast, an armed flotilla, consisting of 800 craft of all descriptions, was nearly completed. Since the commencement of hostilities, there had been issued 312,000 muskets, 16,000 pistols, and 77,000 pikes. The field-train also, in Great Britain alone, was increased from 356 to 460 pieces of ordnance completely appointed, and brigaded under experienced officers; and the stores, in all the various branches of the public service, had been nearly doubled. Mr. Fox applauded the zeal and patriotism of the volunteers; but he could never bring himself to believe that they were susceptible of any thing like the efficiency of a regular force. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the other hand, stat-



ed that Lord Moira, the commander-in-chief in Scotland, and Lord Cathcart, the present commander-in-chief in Ireland, were so highly satisfied with the steadiness and discipline of the volunteers of Edinburgh and of Dublin, that they had given them an unconditional assurance, that they would conduct them with confidence against an invading host.

The army estimates having been agreed to, Parliament, on the 20th of December, adjourned to the 1st of February, 1804, on which day a bill was introduced for consolidating and explaining the existing laws relative to the volunteers. In the course of the debates to which it gave rise, Mr. Pitt proposed that this description of force should be subjected to stricter discipline and more active service, that it might be more nearly assimilated with the regular army; but his amendments were rejected, though not by a large majority.

On the 14th of February it was announced, by an official bulletin, that the King was much indisposed; and the public sympathy was excited by an apprehension of the return of the malady by which he had been formerly afflicted. The attack, however, was so slight, that there was no necessary suspension of the royal functions, and on the 9th of March all apprehension was dissipated by the assurance of the Lord Chancellor, that he had conceived it proper and necessary to have a personal interview with the sovereign, at which due discussion had taken place with respect to the bills submitted for the royal assent; and he had no hesitation to aver that the result of all that took place, on that occasion, fully justified him in announcing his Majesty's assent to the bills specified in the royal commission.

The conflict of parties still continued with much

animosity. On the 7th of March Sir John Wrottesley moved that the House of Commons should resolve itself into a committee, to inquire into the conduct of the Irish government relative to the insurrection of the 23d of July, 1803. The debate was protracted till near five o'clock on the following morning, when the motion was lost by a majority of 178 to 82 voices. When the restriction of the issues of cash by the bank of Ireland was submitted to the House of Commons on the 13th of February, it occasioned an animated debate, and called forth a maiden speech from Lord Henry Petty, eldest son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, in which his lordship displayed considerable talent. A message from the King, on the 26th of March, announced a voluntary offer of the Irish militia to extend their services to Great Britain; and bills passed both Houses, to enable his Majesty to accept the offer, and to raise 10,000 additional militia in Ireland.

A systematic attack on the ministry was at this time pursued by all the parties in opposition, through the medium of investigations on the military and naval affairs of the empire. This opposition was particularly displayed in the progress of the bill to consolidate and explain the laws relative to volunteers; the course of debate on this subject, however, was interrupted by a motion, of which Mr. Pitt had before given notice, on the naval defence of the country; a question which was expected more than any other to try the strength of ministry, and even to shake their power to its foundation. On the 15th of March, after expressing his expectation that part of the documents which it was his intention to call for would be granted by ministers without resistance, Mr. Pitt moved for an address, requesting that his Majesty would order to be laid before Parliament, an account of the num-

ber of ships of the line, and smaller vessels, in commission on the 31st of December, 1793, on the 30th of September, 1801, and on the 31st of December, 1803, specifying the service in which they were respectively employed. He made his motion from a conviction, that if the papers were granted, it would appear that the number of that description of our naval force, fit to repel the actual attempts of the enemy, was, at the present moment, much inferior, and less adequate to the exigency of the danger, than at any period in former times. If these documents were granted, his next motion would be for a copy of the contracts made, and the orders given, by the lords of the admiralty in 1793, 1797, and 1803, with respect to the number of gun vessels to be built, distinguishing the time at which each contract was made, the period in which it was to be brought to a conclusion, and the amount of the sum to be paid for its performance. The board of admiralty had considered gun-boats peculiarly serviceable for resisting invasion; yet, in the course of a year, they had built only 23, while the enemy in the same period had constructed nearly 1000. From the period when hostilities were renewed our navy ought to have been increasing instead of diminishing; notwithstanding which, government had only contracted for the building of two ships of the line in the merchant yards, when it was well known that during a war, the building of ships was always nearly suspended in the King's yards, which were then wanted for repairing the damages sustained in the service. It was also worthy of remark, that in the first year of the late war, our naval establishment was increased from 16,000 to 76,000 seamen; whereas, having begun the present war with an establishment of 50,000, we had augmented

them in the course of the first year to only 86,000 men.

Mr. Tierney, treasurer of the navy, objected strongly to the production of the papers required, and was at a loss to conceive how the measure could, for a single instant, be entertained by the House, when no cause, no single fact, was brought forward to support it; when every possible energy pervaded that branch of the public service over which the noble lord presided; when naval skill, vigilance, and activity, were displayed in every quarter, and when the best officers were employed in every direction, with the highest honour to themselves, and the most decided advantage to their country. Mr. Sheridan delivered a warm eulogy on the character and conduct of Earl St. Vincent, the first lord of the admiralty; whilst Mr. Fox and others, taking a different side, supported the motion for inquiry, declaring that it would terminate to the honour of the admiral. The debate was continued for several hours, when, on a division, the numbers were, for Mr. Pitt's motion, 130; against it, 201.

On the 23d of April, Mr. Fox moved for a committee to revise the several bills which had been proposed for the defence of the country, when Mr. Pitt again took a comprehensive view of its actual state. There was but one point on which he and Mr. Fox differed on this occasion; the power vested in the King by the constitution, of calling out all the subjects of his realm to defend the country in case of invasion. Mr. Fox was, perhaps, the first statesman who ever ventured to question the royal prerogative in this particular; for nothing is more clearly laid down by our law writers, than that the power of calling on every description of his subjects to repair

to his standard, when the country is about to be invaded, is vested in the King. Mr. Pitt asserted and maintained this principle against Mr. Fox, but on all other points those rival statesmen agreed, and the result of this concurrence of sentiment was a strong division, in which the ministers had a majority of only 52; 204 having voted for the motion of Mr. Fox, and 256 against it. Two days after this discussion, another debate took place on the same subject, in consequence of a motion by Mr. Secretary Yorke, for the House to resolve itself into a committee, on a bill for the suspension of the army of reserve act. This motion was resisted by Mr. Pitt; and, on a division, there appeared in support of the ministerial plan, 240; against it, 203; leaving to ministers a majority of only 37. Mr. Addington then determined on retiring from administration, after he had adjusted the financial concerns of the year. The supplies were estimated at 36,000,000*l.* for Great Britain alone; and the ways and means consisted of certain additions to the war taxes, a loan of 10,000,000*l.* and a vote of credit of 2,500,000*l.* On the 12th of May it was announced that Mr. Addington had resigned the office of chancellor of the exchequer, and that Mr. Pitt was nominated his successor.

The majority of the nation heard with joy that the King had confided to so able and experienced a statesman as Mr. Pitt, the task of forming a new administration, when the contest with France was becoming more arduous, and the difficulties of the country appeared on the increase; particularly as it was understood to be his wish to unite, in the public service, as large a portion as possible of the weight, talent, and character, to be found in public men. Whether he was sincere in his desire to secure the aid

of Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox may be doubted, because it has been said of him, that he could bear "no rival near his throne," and that he preferred the aid of good second rate *man of business* talent; but he certainly professed to wish for their co-operation, and the personal objection of the King to Mr. Fox appeared alone to prevent it; Lord Grenville refused to come into office without him, but Mr. Pitt did not make it the ground of withholding his own services. Under the new arrangement the following members of Mr. Addington's administration retained their stations: the Duke of Portland, president of the council; Lord Eldon, chancellor; the Earl of Westmorland, lord privy seal; the Earl of Chatham, master-general of the ordnance; and Lord Castlereagh, president of the board of control. Lord Hawkesbury passed from the office of foreign affairs to the home department. The new members were, Mr. Pitt, first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer; Lord Melville, first lord of the admiralty; Lord Harrowby, secretary for foreign affairs; Lord Camden, secretary for the department of war and colonies; and Lord Mulgrave, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, with a seat in the cabinet. The government of Ireland remained unchanged, with the exception of Mr. Wickham, chief secretary, who retired in ill health, and was succeeded by Sir Evan Nepean. The following new appointments took place in the subordinate offices of government: Mr. William Dundas, secretary at war; Mr. Canning, treasurer of the navy; Mr. George Rose and Lord Charles Somerset, joint paymasters of the forces; the Duke of Montrose and Lord Charles Spencer, joint paymasters-general; Mr. Huskisson and Mr. Sturges Bourne, secretaries to the treasury.

The first subject of importance that engaged the attention of Parliament, after the change of ministry, was brought under discussion by Mr. Wilberforce, who, on the 30th of May, pressed upon the consideration of the House the abolition of the African slave trade. In the course of a very animated debate, several members opposed the motion, which was supported by Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt, and carried by 124 to 49 voices. In consequence of this vote, a bill was brought into Parliament, limiting the latest period at which ships were to be allowed to clear out from an English port for this traffic to the 1st of October, 1804, and the third reading was carried, on the 28th June, by 69 against 33. In the House of Lords, however, the bill was rejected on the 30th of July, on the ground that the late period of the session would prevent the parties interested from attaining complete justice.

A plan for raising and supporting a permanent military force, and for the general reduction of the additional militia, was introduced into Parliament on the 5th of June, by Mr. Pitt, under the designation of the *additional force act*. This measure aimed at an establishment not merely to meet the present circumstances of the country, but to serve as an instrument for the immediate improvement of the existing system, and to supply a sufficient resource to the regular force, should an opportunity offer of employing our troops in foreign warfare. The bill was strenuously opposed by Mr. Windham, Mr. Fox, Mr. Adington, and others, but it was ultimately carried through the Lower House by small ministerial majorities; there appearing on the last division, for the bill 265, against it 233. In the Upper House the measure was sanctioned by 154 against 69.

On the 20th of June, the difficult subject of the corn laws was brought under discussion. It has been maintained that the whole system is prejudicial to the public weal, and that these laws should be altogether repealed, leaving the trade free, and the prices to find their own level; but in consequence of a report of the House of Commons, it was deemed expedient to have recourse to new legislative regulations. From this report it appeared that the price of corn, from 1791 to 1803, had been irregular; but had, upon an average, yielded a fair price to the grower. The high prices had produced the effect of stimulating industry, and bringing into cultivation large tracts of waste land; which, combined with the two last productive seasons, had occasioned such a depreciation in the value of grain, as would, it was said, tend to the discouragement of agriculture, unless immediate relief were afforded; and for this purpose, although, within the period of the last thirteen years, no less than 30,000,000*l.* sterling had been paid to foreign countries for supplies of grain, it was proposed to have recourse to a bounty upon exportation—a measure that had not been resorted to for nearly thirty years. With this view a bill was brought into Parliament, allowing exportation when the price of wheat was at or below 48*s.* per quarter of eight Winchester bushels; and importation when the average price in the twelve maritime counties of England should exceed 66*s.* The bill passed through the House of Commons without any formidable opposition, but in the Lords some few petitions were presented against it. Earl Stanhope called it a bill to starve the poor, and moved that it be rejected. The measure, however, passed into a law.

The House of Commons, on the 2d of July, on



the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, resolved itself into a committee of supply, to which several accounts relative to the augmentation of the civil list were referred; when the arrears thereof were found to amount to the sum of 590,000*l*. This excess of expenditure, it was stated, had arisen from a variety of expenses incurred by services which could not be foreseen in the year 1802, when the House voted the discharge of arrears then due, amounting to about 230,000*l*. With respect to the future state of the civil list, it was proposed that several charges upon it should be annually discharged by Parliament. These charges amounted to 135,000*l*. and related to fluctuating expenses; many of them arose from the war, others from increased law expenses, and the multiplication of private bills. The House readily assented to the propositions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the discharge of the arrears, and augmentation of the civil list, were voted almost without opposition.

The India budget was produced in the House of Commons, on the 10th of July, by Lord Castlereagh; from whose statement it appeared, that the debt had increased within the last year 1,229,821*l*. and the assets 1,959,396*l*., leaving the net improvement for the year 729,575*l*. When he had before stated the company's expectation of being able to pay the annual 500,000*l*. to government, it was on a presumption of the continuance of peace, and in a posture of affairs very different from the present. Lord Archibald Hamilton observed, that the House was annually amused with splendid promises of the extinction of the company's debt, and of the approach of that era when India would contribute to the expenses of the empire: but on the contrary, the debt, which was last year

18,000,000*l.* had now increased to 19,000,000*l.* Mr. Francis thought that the mischief was in a state of progression, and that every year would find our affairs deteriorated; for though it had been provided, at the renewal of the company's charter, that the country should receive 500,000*l.* annually, this sum was never paid after the first year; and that a territorial revenue of 13,000,000*l.* and a flourishing home-trade should not leave surplus enough to pay a sum so comparatively trifling, was certainly strange, but it appeared to be a regular system with those who produced the India accounts, to announce the approach of prosperity, by estimates rated higher than subsequent events had justified. The resolutions were agreed to in the committee, and on the day appointed for discussing them, Lord Castlereagh stated that neither he nor his predecessor had ever held out any promises that would not have been fulfilled, had it not been for unforeseen wars, and concluded by moving, that the proper officer should be directed to lay before the House an account of the revenue and charges of India, for the last ten years, distinguishing each year; which was carried without a division.

Parliament was prorogued on the 31st of July, when the King, after applauding the measures which had been adopted for resisting the threatened invasion, expressed a hope that the exertions and example of this country might, by their influence on other nations, lead to the re-establishment of a system that would oppose an effectual barrier to those schemes of unbounded ambition and aggrandizement, which threatened to overwhelm the continent of Europe.

The events of the war in the peninsula of Hindostan, the successful termination of which served to dissipate the apprehensions that had been felt for the

stability of the British empire in the east, and to remove the necessity of weakening the army at home by detaching troops to India, must now be adverted to. The peishwa, or Mahratta sovereign of Poonah, having been expelled from his dominions by Holkar in 1802, concluded a subsidiary treaty with the English company on the last day of the year, and to effect his restoration a detachment of troops was placed under the command of Major-general Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, who entered the Mahratta territories in March, 1803, and advanced rapidly to Poonah, which was re-entered by its sovereign on the 13th of May. Scindia and the Rajah of Berar were in the mean time negotiating an alliance with Holkar, of which the governor-general, the Marquis Wellesley, having obtained evidence, it was resolved to employ the whole military force to break so dangerous a confederacy.

When the period arrived for commencing hostilities, General Wellesley, who was opposed to the two latter chieftains, marched against the fortress of Ahmednughur, which he reduced on the 12th of August, and then advanced to Anrungabad. On the 28d of September he gained a complete victory at Assaye over a greatly superior force: the Bombay army had also been successful in the Guzzerat, and gained possession of the territories of Scindia in that province. In the months of September and October, the town and province of Cuttack were wrested from the Rajah of Berar, by a force under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Harcourt; and in the north General Lake, at the head of the Bengal army, reduced the strong fortress of Ally Ghur, after driving to a precipitate retreat the forces commanded by Perron, a French officer in the service of Scindia, who in con-

sequence lost his reputation and influence in India. The British general then advanced towards the city of Delhi, and gave battle to the army of Scindia, commanded by Louis Bourquien, over which, after a severe conflict, he obtained a complete victory, and released the Mogul Emperor Shah Aulum, who had been kept in a very degraded state by the French party, and who now put himself under the protection of the English. General Lake next reduced the fort of Agra, and on the 1st of November defeated the remainder of Scindia's forces, in which were fifteen of Perron's regular battalions, at Laswaree. Meantime General Wellesley, following up his victory at Assaye, drove the Rajah of Berar into his own territories, and entirely defeated him on the 28th of November, in the plains of Argaum, which splendid victory was followed by the capture of Gamil Ghur, one of the strongest fortresses in India. These successes compelled the rajah to sue for peace, and a treaty was concluded on the 17th of December, by which he renounced the confederacy against the British, ceded the province of Cuttack, with some other territories, and engaged never to take into his service the subject of any state at war with the English. A treaty with Scindia also speedily followed, in which he agreed to cede all his forts, territories, and rights in the Douab, and in the districts northward of the dominions of the Rajahs of Jeypoor and Judpoor, together with Baroach in the Guzzerat, and Ahmednughur in the Deccan. Thus was gloriously terminated a war which annihilated the French interest in India, dissolved a powerful confederacy against the English, and consolidated the power and possessions of the company. The thanks of Parliament were voted to his excellency, and to all who had shared in

the dangers and glories of the contest; while the King conferred upon General Lake the title of Lord Lake, and on General Wellesley the order of the Bath.

The first military operation of any importance in 1804 occurred in the English settlement at Gorée, on the coast of Africa. In the month of January, this settlement was taken by a French force, under the command of Chevalier Mahé, and re-captured in March by a small expedition under Captain Dickson. On the 5th of May, the rich and important colony of Surinam surrendered to Major-general Sir Charles Green; and although the capture was an enterprise of considerable difficulty, this valuable acquisition was obtained with little loss.

The British naval operations of this year consisted almost entirely of exertions rigorously to enforce the system of blockade, and in attacks upon the enemy's boats, which either ventured out of the harbour of Boulogne, for the purposes of exercise or menace, or were proceeding from other ports to that dépôt; it was, however, impossible, to obviate the effects of occasional rumours of invasion. In the month of August, a general movement on the opposite coast exhibited every appearance of an approaching attack upon some part of the British empire, and at Boulogne in particular, an extraordinary degree of activity prevailed. Of the various description of craft and armed vessels collected in that immense dépôt, a much greater number was brought out into the bay of Boulogne than on any former occasion. Disposed in hostile array, under the protection of their numerous batteries on shore, they were attacked in the most spirited and vigorous manner by the British squadron upon that station: the firing was tremen-

dous, and its duration was such as to favour the belief, that the long threatened invasion was at this time to be certainly attempted. Under the influence of this impression, the most vigorous and general exertions were made for the public safety; and, in the early part of September, the general terror began to subside: in the beginning of October, however, about 150 of the enemy's vessels ventured outside the pier, and revived the alarm. At this period, ministers were induced to sanction a scheme for the destruction of the French flotilla, which had been submitted to them by some American projector, and was principally to be carried into effect through the medium of copper vessels, of an oblong form, containing a large quantity of combustibles, and so constructed as to explode in a given time, by means of clock-work. These vessels, called catamarans, were to be fastened to the bottom of the enemy's gun-boats by the aid of a small raft, rowed by one man, who, being seated up to the chin in water, might possibly, in a dark night, escape detection. Fire-ships of different constructions were also to be employed in the projected attack. The most active and enterprising officers were distributed in different explosion vessels, and the whole was placed under the orders and direction of Admiral Lord Keith, commanding in the Downs, with instructions to cover the smaller force by his powerful squadron. On the 2d of October his lordship, with a formidable fleet of 62 sail, six of which were ships of the line, anchored at about a league and a half from the north to the west of the port of Boulogne; and so strongly did ministers feel themselves interested in the result, that Mr. Pitt, and several other members of the cabinet, were induced to witness the scene from the elevation of Walmer

Castle. In the course of the day a sufficient force was detached to take up an advanced and convenient anchorage for covering the retreat, and for affording protection to the wounded, or to such boats as might be crippled ; or should the wind freshen and blow in-shore, to tow off the boats engaged in the attack. While these preparations were advancing, the enemy was not inactive ; the batteries, both stationary and floating, were prepared, and the army was drawn up in readiness to resist the approaching assault. At a quarter past nine at night, the first detachment of fire-ships was launched, under a heavy fire from the advanced force, which was returned by a tremendous thunder of artillery from the shore. The vessels of the flotilla opened a passage for them as they approached, and so effectually avoided them, that they sailed to the rear of the enemy's line without doing any damage. At half-past ten the first explosion-ship blew up, and produced an immense column of fire ; its wreck spread in every direction, but not the slightest mischief was done either to the ships or the batteries. A second, a third, and a fourth succeeded, but with no better effect : at length, after twelve of these ships had exploded, the engagement ceased about four o'clock in the morning, when the English smaller vessels withdrew in perfect order, and without the loss of a man. On the flotilla, no mischief whatever was ascertained to have been inflicted ; but, from the disappearance of two brigs, and some smaller vessels, the next day, Lord Keith conjectured that they might have been destroyed. The enemy's loss of men, according to their own account, was 25 killed and wounded. Thus terminated the catamaran project, in the preparation of which, much time, expense, and ingenuity were wasted.

As soon as intelligence of the renewal of the war between Great Britain and France arrived in the East Indies, the French Admiral, Linois, withdrew from the roads of Pondicherry, and for some time carried on a predatory warfare against the English commerce and possessions in that part of the globe; he captured several of the East India company's ships, and others of the private trade, and made a successful descent on Fort Marlborough (Bencoolen), and plundered that settlement. He next formed the determination to capture or destroy, at a single blow, the whole of the homeward-bound China fleet; and with this intention collected his force, consisting of the *Marengo*, of 80 guns, the *Semillante* and *Bellepoule*, of 40, a cutter and brigantine of 18, and a corvette, of 28 guns, and stationed his squadron in the Indian Seas, near the entrance of the Straits of Malacca, with the determination to cruise in that latitude till the arrival of the fleet from Canton. On the 5th of February, this fleet, consisting of 15 of the East India company's ships from China, 12 country ships, a Portuguese East Indiaman, and a fast sailing brig, passed Macao Roads, under the command of Captain Dance, the senior officer, when the Portuguese vessel and one of the China ships parted company, and did not rejoin the fleet. On the 14th the *Royal George* made a signal, indicating that four strange sail were in view, which, on being reconnoitred, proved to be the squadron under Admiral Linois. The commodore, without a moment's delay, hoisted the signal for his fleet to form a line of battle in close order. At sun-set, the enemy was close upon the rear of the company's ships, and an expectation prevailed that the attack would be immediately commenced, but at the close of the day the French



hauled to windward, and desisted from any hostile operation during the night. At day-break on the 15th, the enemy was seen about three miles to windward, when the vessels under the command of Captain Dance hoisted their colours, and offered him battle. At one o'clock in the afternoon, the commodore, apprehensive that his rear might be cut off, bore down upon the enemy, and made the signal to attack each of the hostile ships in succession, which was correctly performed. Admiral Linois then formed in close line, and opened his fire upon the headmost of the merchant ships, which was not returned by any of them till a near approach. The Royal George, from her advanced situation, sustained the brunt of the action, and got as near the enemy as he would permit. This example was followed by the Ganges and Earl Camden, who both opened their fire as soon as their guns could take effect; but, before any other ship could get into action, the enemy hauled their wind, and stood away to the eastward under all the sail they could set. At two o'clock, *p. m.* Captain Dance made a signal for a general chase, and pursued the retreating squadron till past four, when, fearing that a longer pursuit might carry him too far from the straits, and endanger the immense property confided to his care, he made the signal to tack, and anchored in a situation to proceed for the entrance of the straits on the following day. Thus did the gallantry of a fleet of British merchantmen put to flight a French admiral, commanding ships of war, superior in force and in men, and preserve from capture a property estimated at no less than 1,500,000*l.* sterling. On the arrival of the fleet in England, rewards were distributed with a liberal hand, by the East India company, to the various commanders and their brave crews; and

the wounded, as well as the representatives of the few who fell in the engagement, were munificently rewarded; while the sovereign, to evince the sense he entertained of the gallant conduct of the commodore, conferred upon him the honour of knighthood.

After a long negotiation between the courts of Madrid and London, begun in the autumn of 1802, and continued till towards the close of the present year, during which time Spain had maintained an ostensible neutrality, while she served as the secret ally and vassal of France, the British plenipotentiary found it necessary to quit Madrid. While this negotiation was pending in the Spanish capital, Admiral Cochrane acquainted the Admiralty that preparations on a large scale were making in the port of Ferrol, so that in a few days a formidable squadron would be ready for sea; and that he had no doubt but the Spanish government waited only for the arrival of a fleet of frigates, containing treasures from South America, to commence open hostilities. On receipt of this information, Captain Moore, with four frigates under his command, was ordered to cruise off Cadiz, for the purpose of detaining such Spanish ships of war, homeward bound, as contained bullion or treasure; and on the 5th of October he fell in with four large frigates, which, on finding themselves pursued, formed in line of battle, the van-ship carrying a broad pendant, and the next in the line a rear-admiral's flag, and continued to steer in for Cadiz, without regarding his summons to shorten sail, which he gave on placing each of his ships along-side one of theirs. He fired a shot across the fore-poop of the second, which had the desired effect of bringing them to a parley, when Lieutenant Ascott, of the *Indefatigable*, was sent to inform the Spanish commander that Captain Moore had

orders to detain his squadron ; that it was his earnest wish to execute that duty without bloodshed ; but that the determination to surrender must be made instantly. The answer returned being unsatisfactory, a close battle ensued, and, in less than ten minutes, *La Mercedes*, the Spanish admiral's second ship a-stern, blew up, with a tremendous explosion. The others struck in succession, after a considerable loss in killed and wounded. As soon as the boats of the British squadron had taken possession of the rear-admiral, sail was made for the floating fragments of the *Mercedes* ; but except the second captain, and 45 men, who were picked up by the boats of the *Amphion*, all on board had perished.

A most afflicting calamity attended the loss of this vessel. A gentleman of rank, who was going to Spain in that ship with his whole family, consisting of his lady, four daughters, and five sons, had passed with one of the latter on board another frigate before the action commenced, and they had there the horror of witnessing the dreadful catastrophe, which, in an instant, severed from them their dearest relatives, and deprived them of a fortune, the accumulation of five-and-twenty years. The Spanish squadron, it appeared, was commanded by Don Joseph Bustamente, Knight of the Order of St. James, and a rear-admiral in the Spanish navy. This fleet was from Monte Video, Rio de la Plata, and contained upwards of 4,000,000 of dollars, of which about 800,000 were on board the *Mercedes* ; and the merchandise on board the frigate was also of great value. The Admiralty was much blamed for not having sent such a force to intercept these vessels as would have allowed their commander to submit at once, without impeachment to his honour ; whereas the equality of strength ren-

dered a sanguinary combat inevitable. The negotiations at Madrid were not immediately broken off in consequence of this event, but after some time spent in fruitless attempts, on the part of Great Britain, to obtain a full disclosure of the existing engagements between France and Spain, his Catholic Majesty declared war against England on the 12th of December.

In the month of February, 1804, a plot was detected in France, the object of which seems to have been the overthrow of the existing government. The principal persons implicated in this conspiracy were General Pichegru, Georges Cadoudal, formerly a leader of the insurgents in Brittany, and Lajollais, a confidant of the former. It also appeared that General Moreau had held secret interviews with Pichegru since his return from England to Paris, and had, to a certain extent, been made acquainted with his plans. The first intimation of this intrigue was given by a confidential agent of the conspirators, who had been arrested near Calais; and, on his information, Lajollais, Moreau, and several others, were placed under arrest. Pichegru and Georges for some time eluded the search of the police, but were discovered and committed to prison. This treason against the existing government was announced to the public in a report to the first consul, prepared by Regnier, the minister of justice, and which ascribed the whole plot to England and her emissaries. On the promulgation of this report, the genius of the French nation displayed itself in a profusion of legislative provisions, and in copious and abject addresses, imploring Buonaparte to take proper measures for the preservation of a life so dear to France.

Immediately on the arrest of General Pichegru, he

underwent an examination before the prefect of the police, the object of which was to obtain from him a confession that he returned to France under the direction of the French princes, and that his intention was to replace the Bourbons on the throne of their ancestors. After a second examination he was committed to the tower of the Temple, where he remained for about a month, when on a sudden the government announced that he had terminated his existence by suicide; it was, however, said, that while he was in prison, attempts were made to extort from him confessions by the application of the torture, but that his firmness rendered these barbarities unavailing, and that, in order to conceal the marks of the torture, and to avoid the exposure which must have taken place on his trial, recourse was had to the last expedient of a despotic government, and the victim of private assassination was calumniated as a suicide. In the same prison of the Temple, also, a British naval officer, Captain Wright, shortly afterwards died, under circumstances which gave rise to the suspicion that it proceeded from the hands of violence. He had been the fellow-prisoner of Sir Sidney Smith, and after escaping with that officer from the Temple, had served with him in Egypt and Syria, and had already been named in the reports as the person who effected the landing of Georges, Pichegru, and their companions, on the coast of France. On the 15th of May, while cruising in the Bay of Quiberon, he was becalmed and made prisoner by the French gun-boats, and did not long survive his captivity.

The trial of the other parties implicated in the plot took place in Paris in the month of July, before the criminal tribunal of the department of the Seine, when Georges, and 19 others, were convicted, and

condemned to suffer death, with confiscation of property. General Moreau, whose high reputation in the army rendered it unsafe to sacrifice him, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but was permitted to transport himself to America; to Armand Polignac, M. de Rivière Lajollais, and M. de Lozier, who were in the number of the convicted, a pardon was extended; and on the 25th of July, Georges and eleven others were guillotined at the Place de Greve.

Buonaparte, as he approached nearer to the authority and dignity of a sovereign, appeared resolved to annihilate, if possible, the relics of that unhappy race which had, for so many centuries, given monarchs to France, and with this view was guilty of an act which excited the detestation of all Europe, and will remain a foul blot on his memory. The Duke D'Enghien, the worthy representative of the House of Condé, had, since the continental peace, lived in retirement at the town of Ettenheim, in the Electorate of Baden. In this neutral territory, Buonaparte resolved to seize him; for which purpose he sent General Caulincourt, his aide-camp, with a body of cavalry, who entered the electorate on the 15th of March, and, coming unawares upon the destined victim, secured him and several of his friends without difficulty, and even without opposition. The duke was immediately conveyed to Strasburg, and thence, without any interval of repose, to Paris, where he was conducted to the same prison, the Temple, which had been the last scene of his sovereign's miseries: he was not, however, permitted to remain here, or to take the smallest rest, but was hurried away to the castle of Vincennes, where he arrived on the 20th; and that same evening, exhausted with fatigue, he was dragged before a military commission, when a pretended trial ensued,

and in two hours, without any evidence being produced, the illustrious prisoner was found guilty of having borne arms against the French republic, of having conspired to restore the monarchy, and of being an accomplice in the late conspiracy. In the night, Buonaparte's brother-in-law, Murat, with four other general officers, among whom were his own brother, Louis Buonaparte, and Duroc, the consul's secretary, arrived at the castle, under an appropriate escort of Mamelucs, and the duke was shot by nine Italian grenadiers. He died, as he had lived, with the spirit of a Christian soldier, and expressed his satisfaction that his executioners were not Frenchmen, as his wretched country would have one crime less to answer for.

The intelligence of the mock trial, and consequent murder, of this unfortunate prince, was first made known in papers printed out of France; for it was not until several days after the event, that the Paris newspapers contained any narrative on the subject. In private, where men could venture to express an opinion, every Frenchman declared his abhorrence of the act. In foreign countries, the murder was stigmatized in becoming terms; and in some, solemn funeral obsequies were performed in honour of the victim. Several notes on the illegal seizure of the Duke D'Enghien, and the violation of the neutrality of the German empire, were delivered to the diet of Ratisbon, and addressed to the French minister for foreign affairs; among which, the most spirited were those presented by the Russian, Swedish, and Hanoverian ministers.

To divert public attention from this atrocity, the French government announced the discovery of another plot, in which they implicated the British mi-

nister at the court of Munich, Mr. Drake, and the envoy to the Elector of Wurtemberg, Mr. Spencer Smith; a mass of documents and intercepted letters were produced, from which it appeared that Mr. Drake had incautiously given some attention to the representations and projects of the infamous Mehée de la Touche, who, having obtained access to him, and made a tender of his services, reported to the French government the result of his intrigues. The originals of the correspondence were communicated to the Elector of Bavaria, who expressed his regret that his capital should have been the centre of such a transaction, and declared that it was impossible for him to have any communication with Mr. Drake, or to receive him at his court. On this intimation, the British envoy found it impossible to continue his residence in the Bavarian territories; and Mr. Spencer Smith was also under the necessity of quitting Stutgard. As the papers respecting this transaction were widely distributed, it became necessary for the British government to vindicate itself, and a circular letter was accordingly addressed by Lord Hawkesbury to the different foreign ministers resident in London, which, in repelling the imputation of countenancing projects of assassination, maintained the right of belligerent powers to avail themselves of any discontents existing in the countries with which they may be at war. The exercise of this right was fully sanctioned by the actual state of the French nation, and by the conduct of its government, which had ever since the commencement of the war maintained a communication with the disaffected in his Majesty's dominions, and had assembled, on the coast of France, a body of Irish rebels for the purpose of aiding their designs. And if any accredited minister at a foreign court had held



correspondence with persons in France, with a view to obtain information of the projects of the French government, he had done no more than ministers, under similar circumstances, had uniformly been considered as having a right to do. These arguments were combated in a circular note, authorizing the French envoys to declare to the governments where they resided, that Buonaparte would not recognise the English diplomatic body in Europe, so long as the British government did not restrain them within the limits of their functions.

Shortly after the attempt to place the British diplomatic corps out of the protection of the law of nations, the French government most daringly infringed that very law. On the 25th of October Sir George Rumbold, the English *chargé d'affaires* in the circle of Lower Saxony, was seized at his country house near Hamburg by a party of French troops, and conveyed to Paris, imprisoned in the Temple, and released only on signing a parole not to return to Hamburg, or reside within a certain distance of the French territories. The Senate of Hamburg appealed to the Courts of Berlin, Vienna, and Petersburg, on this violation of their territory, and an application was made by the British minister for foreign affairs to the Prussian cabinet; but a remonstrance from that quarter had already been made with success, for the liberation of the envoy, and he was conveyed from Cherbourg, by a flag of truce, on board the Niobe frigate, which carried him to Portsmouth, after in vain applying for the restitution of his papers.

Buonaparte, encouraged by the general state of things, proceeded to ascend the last step on the ladder of ambition, and when all the previous preparations had been made, addresses were presented to him by the

legislative and municipal bodies, and by the different armies, in the months of March, April, and May, beseeching him to become Emperor of the French. No extreme of adulation could exceed that by which these addresses were marked: a man, whose hands were still running with the blood of an innocent and virtuous Prince, was held up as a model of virtue; and the people, over whom a military tyranny held despotic sway, were represented as supremely happy under his mild and free government. When the public had thus been apprized of the consul's intentions, a decree was finally passed by the senate, on the 18th of May, abolishing the constitution which the senators and consuls themselves had so recently sworn to observe and maintain inviolate; and declaring Napoleon Buonaparte Emperor of the French, and the imperial dignity hereditary in his family. The new emperor then addressed a letter to his bishops, in which he ascribed his elevation to Providence, and ordered a *Te Deum* to be sung, in all the churches, on the glorious occasion. The bishops kept pace in their adulation with the military and civil bodies, and framed prayers adapted to the new order of things; while, to crown the whole, the Pope was ordered to attend the ceremony of the coronation, and, with his own hands, to place the crown on the head of his "dearest son in Christ, Napoleon, Emperor of the French, who has signified his strong desire to be anointed with the holy unction." This ceremony took place on the 19th of November, in the cathedral of Notre Dame, at Paris; the same church in which, with more zeal, the Parisians had, a few years before, worshipped a naked prostitute, as the goddess of reason, in obedience to the command of Buonaparte's friend and predecessor, Maximilian Robespierre.

The assumption of the imperial dignity by Buonaparte gave a new interest to the political concerns of Europe; and the time had now arrived when the Germanic body was no longer to be considered as united under one head.

In the month of August the Emperor Francis issued a decree, by which his title of Emperor of Germany was changed for that of Austria. The council of state declared the object of this measure to be, "the preservation of that degree of equality which should subsist between the great powers, and the just rank of the house and state of Austria among the nations of Europe." The emperor further urged, that in conferring upon his family an hereditary imperial title, he was following the example of Russia in the last century, and of France in the present day. This event was hailed with undissembled joy by France and Prussia; and when it was announced to the diet of Ratisbon, it excited no animadversion, except from the King of Sweden, who considered this change so inseparably connected with the composition of the German empire, that it was not to be laid before the diet merely as a notification, but as a subject for deliberation, in the discussion of which all the members of the diet might express their opinions, as authorized by the constitution. No tribute could have been more flattering to Buonaparte than this concession, which not only made the sovereign, hitherto considered as the first in Europe, in point of dignity, more recent in the creation of title than himself, but even recorded his example as one of the motives of the conduct of the Emperor Francis.

The renewal of the war on the continent had been some time confidently expected, and the appointment of Lord Granville Leveson Gower as ambassador to

the court of St. Petersburg, served to strengthen the opinion that another continental alliance was on the *tapis*. On the 5th of May, the Emperor of Russia presented an energetic note to the diet of Ratisbon, on the seizure of the Duke D'Enghien, in which he declared, that he learned, with equal astonishment and concern, the event that had taken place at Ettenheim, the circumstances by which it was attended, and its melancholy result: and the concern of the emperor on this occasion was the more lively, as he could by no means reconcile the violation of the territory of the German empire, to those principles of justice and propriety which are held sacred among nations, and are the bulwark of their reciprocal relations. To this remonstrance the French minister replied, that the Emperor of Germany, and the King of Prussia, who, undoubtedly, were the two powers most concerned in the fate of the German empire, had considered the French government sufficiently authorized to arrest, at two leagues distance from her frontiers, French rebels, who had conspired against their own country, and who, by the nature of their plots, as well as by the terrible evidence which corroborated them, had placed themselves out of the protection of the law of nations. The German princes being thus satisfied, the first consul felt himself in no way responsible to the Emperor of Russia, on a point which did not concern his interest; and if it were the intention of his Majesty to form a new coalition in Europe, and to recommence the war, what need was there of empty pretences, and why did he not act openly? Two months elapsed before a reply was made to this paper; but on the 21st of July, M. D'Oubril, the Russian *charge d'affaires*, complained that it was, in all respects, evasive, and by no means an answer to

the note he had delivered. An important correspondence ensued, during which, the King of Sweden appeared to be animated with a resolution to support the principles of the laws of nations, and to make common cause with the Emperor Alexander.

The Emperor of Russia's appeal to the diet of Ratisbon had little effect on the Germanic body. The King of Prussia evinced no disposition to resist the aggressions of Buonaparte, and the majority of the other states were fearful of the renewal of a contest, in which they might risk more than they could hope to gain. The Emperor Alexander, in warmly remonstrating against the usurping and domineering spirit of France, had insisted upon the evacuation of the kingdom of Naples and the north of Germany by the French, and the indemnification of the King of Sardinia. The refusal of compliance occasioned the Russian resident to demand his passports for departure from France; and both parties made preparations for a renewal of hostilities. Austria, in the meantime, was employed in repairing the losses which her armies had sustained in the late war, and in improving the condition of her military establishments.

Whilst the situation of the continental powers would not permit Buonaparte to direct his whole military force to the invasion of England, he spared no effort to acquire the means of meeting the navy of Great Britain on more equal terms. He had now at his disposal the fleets of Spain, and by a convention concluded on the 20th of October, he obtained from Genoa, in return for some commercial advantages, the service of 6000 seamen during the war, and the use of the harbours, arsenals, and dock-yards. Thus the port of Genoa was virtually ceded to him, under an engagement that the Ligurian republic should, at

its own expense, enlarge the basin for the reception of ten sail of the line, which were to be immediately constructed.

In St. Domingo, the negro chief, Dessalines, who had succeeded Toussaint, following the example of Buonaparte, dignified himself with the title of Emperor of Hayti, the native name of the island, and formed an imperial court, with all its etiquette and appendages. In the course of the year the blacks obtained entire possession of the French part of the island, sacrificing to their revenge all the white inhabitants who had not made a timely escape.

#### CHAPTER XXVIII.

**DURING** the Parliamentary recess, Mr. Pitt was sedulously employed in cementing a good understanding, and in strengthening the connection which subsisted, between this country and the court of St. Petersburg; and the foundation was laid for a new confederacy against France, as soon as a favourable opportunity should occur for carrying it into effect. While this intercourse was carrying on, ministers were surprised by a letter, written by Napoleon's own hand, and addressed to his Britannic Majesty. This unusual mode of communication, which he had before adopted upon his accession to the office of first consul, was chosen from a professed desire to disengage so important a transaction from the intrigues of cabinets and the perplexities and delays of diplomacy. After adverting to his recent elevation to the throne of France, and lamenting the unnecessary effusion of blood, he said he considered it no disgrace to take

the first step towards conciliation ; for though peace was the wish of his heart, war had never been inconsistent with his glory. As it had never been customary for the English sovereign to communicate directly with a foreign potentate, an answer was returned by Lord Mulgrave, addressed to the French minister, intimating his Majesty's wish to procure the blessings of peace, on terms compatible with the permanent security of Europe ; but stating the impracticability of more fully meeting the overture now made, until he had communicated with the powers of the continent, with whom he was engaged in confidential connections and relations.

To strengthen the hands of government, Mr. Pitt found it expedient to renew his connection with Mr. Addington ; and that gentleman having been called up to the House of Peers, by the title of Viscount Sidmouth, was, on the 14th of January, 1805, appointed to succeed the Duke of Portland, as president of the council. At the same time Lord Mulgrave was appointed secretary for foreign affairs in the place of Lord Harrowby, and the Earl of Buckinghamshire chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster. On the 15th the session of Parliament was opened by his Majesty in person. The speech from the throne announced that the preparations for invasion were still carried on by France, with unremitting activity ; that Spain, under the controul of the French government, had issued a declaration of war against this country ; and that a communication, containing a profession of a pacific disposition, had recently been received from France, to which his Majesty had replied, by expressing his earnest desire for the restoration of the blessings of peace, not deeming it proper to enter into a more particular explanation

without previously consulting those continental powers with whom he was engaged in confidential intercourse. The usual addresses passed unanimously in both Houses.

On the 23d of January, 120,000 men, including marines, were voted, by the House of Commons, for the service of the navy, for the year 1805; and a sum, not exceeding 2,886,000*l.*, for the payment of the men. At the same time, the sum of 2,964,000*l.* was granted for victualling, and 4,680,000*l.* for wear and tear of shipping, &c. The number of men actually employed in the navy, at this time, amounted to 108,000. On the 4th of February, the secretary at war moved the army estimates of the year, which amounted to 12,395,490*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for 312,048 men, under the different heads of service. In the budget, which was opened on the 18th, the minister stated the joint charge of supplies for Great Britain and Ireland at 44,500,000*l.* Among the ways and means were a loan of 20,000,000*l.* for England, and 2,500,000*l.* for Ireland; several new war taxes were imposed; an augmentation of one-fourth was laid on the property tax; and an increase of one-half in the duty on salt being strongly objected to, as likely to be injurious to the fisheries, considerable modifications were made before it passed.

The papers relating to the dispute with Spain became the subject of a lengthened discussion, which continued for two days, the 11th and 12th of February. Mr. Pitt entered into a long and luminous explanation and defence of the conduct of the British government, which was, however, severely reprobated by Mr. Grey, who considered the language of the cabinet, in the first instance, (during Mr. Addington's administration) as too tame, irresolute, and



indecisive; and, at last, after Mr. Pitt came into power, as too precipitate, and too violent. He moved various resolutions conformable with these sentiments, and a long discussion ensued, in which much learning was displayed in explaining and applying the law of nations, as laid down by Vattel and others, and in which much special pleading was applied to the purpose of perverting the obvious meaning of the plainest passages referred to in support of opposite conclusions. Mr. Windham, Dr. Lawrence, Mr. Fox, and Lord Temple, joined in censuring the conduct of ministers, while it was ably defended by Lord Castle-reagh, Sir John Nicholl, the Master of the Rolls, and again by Mr. Pitt himself, who made a masterly reply to all the arguments advanced in support of Mr. Grey's amendment, which, on a division, was rejected by 313 votes against 106.

The next subject of importance that engaged the attention of Parliament, arose out of a motion made in the Peers by the Earl of Darnley, and in the Commons by Mr. Sheridan, for the repeal of the additional force bill, a measure which, it was contended, had, in the course of the last eight months, raised no more than 1295 men, of whom 343 only had been applicable to general service. This motion, which produced very elaborate and spirited debates, was lost, in the Lords, by a majority of 68 voices, and in the Commons by 140.

A bill to continue the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act in Ireland, was proposed in the Commons on the 8th of February, and passed; an amendment, moved by Sir John Newport, for a committee to examine documents, and report on the necessity of such suspension, being rejected by 112 to 32. The abolition of the slave trade was again proposed,

and negatived by the small majority of 77 against 70. Petitions from the Roman Catholics of Ireland, praying relief from civil disabilities, gave rise to very interesting discussions, but the minister declared that existing circumstances were unfavourable to their claims, and they were rejected by considerable majorities. On the 19th of June, in consequence of a royal message relative to negotiations pending with some of the continental powers, a sum not exceeding 3,500,000*l.* was granted to his Majesty, to enable him to enter into such engagements, and to take such measures, as the exigencies of affairs might demand. On the 12th of July, Parliament was prorogued by commission.

In the course of this session proceedings were instituted against a member of administration, which strongly engaged the attention of the public. Amongst the measures for the reformation of the public expenditure, meditated or resolved upon by the Addington administration, an inquiry into the abuses of the naval department was one of the most prominent; and, to give efficacy to these investigations, a bill was passed in 1803, appointing commissioners for that purpose. This bill originated, in a great degree, with Earl St. Vincent, first lord of the admiralty, a situation to which, on Mr. Pitt's return to power, Lord Melville was appointed. In the meanwhile, the commissioners had produced several successive reports, one of which, the 10th, appeared to implicate the new first lord of the admiralty, who had, while he filled the office of treasurer of the navy, retained in his hands large sums of the public money, contrary to law. This report Mr. Whitbread brought under the consideration of the House of Commons in April, observing that the commissioners had done their duty to the public, and

it fell to his lot to bring to justice those whom they had exposed. The report involved a considerable number of individuals; not only Lord Melville, and Mr. Alexander Trotter his paymaster, but Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Mark Sprott, the stockbroker, made a considerable figure in the scene. In exhibiting a charge against Lord Melville, he did not accuse a mere unprotected individual: that nobleman had, for a period of thirty years, been in the uninterrupted possession of some lucrative office, and had exercised a most extensive influence; he had many individuals attached to him by the consciousness of obligation; and though not personally present, he had, no doubt, powerful friends in the House, who would be found ready to undertake his defence. Mr. Whitbread then referred to the act of 1785, of which Lord Melville (then Mr. Dundas) was the supporter, for regulating the department of treasurer of the navy, and to the order of council, by which his salary was advanced from 2000*l.* to 4000*l.* a-year, in lieu of all profits, fees, or emoluments, which he might before have derived from the public money lying in his hands. The charges were classed under three heads; first, the having applied the money of the public to other uses than those of the naval department, with which he was connected, in express contempt of an act of Parliament; second, conniving at a system of speculation in an individual, for whose conduct he was officially responsible; and third, his participation in that system. To the honour of public men, said Mr. Whitbread, charges like this have seldom been preferred; and it is a singular circumstance, that the only instance of a similar charge, for a great number of years, was brought against Sir Thomas Rumbold by the noble lord himself, on the ground of malversations

in India. With respect to the first charge, it appeared from the report that there had been, for a number of years, deficiencies in the treasurer of the navy's department, to the amount of upwards of 600,000*l.* a-year. When Lord Melville was asked a plain question as to the appropriation of this money, he, as well as his agent, Mr. Trotter, professed total ignorance of the deficiencies; but by and by the paymaster began to recover his recollection, and confessed, that from the year 1786, down to the period at which he was examined, he had been in the habit of drawing out public money, and placing it in the hands of his own bankers. When the commissioners inquired a little further, he had the assurance to tell them, that they had no right to interfere in his private affairs. Lord Melville, in a letter to the commissioners, was a little more communicative; he acknowledged the fact of advances having been made to him, but said that he could not give the other information required, because he could not disclose state secrets, and because he was not in possession of the accounts of advances made to other departments, having himself committed them to the flames; and not only had the noble lord destroyed the papers, but he had actually lost all recollection of the whole affair! The second charge against Lord Melville was, that he connived at the appropriation of public money to private purposes. Trotter did not deny that he had large sums in the hands of Mr. Coutts, his private banker; but said it was more convenient for the money to be there than in the Bank of England, and more secure: and for the truth of this opinion, he appealed to Lord Melville—to Lord Melville, who framed and sanctioned the bill of 1785! to Lord Melville, who, not satisfied with the regulations of the act of 1785, proposes still stricter

limitations in 1786! For what purpose, however, Mr. Whitbread asked, was there so constant a fluctuation in Mr. Trotter's account at the bank of Mr. Coutts? and why such perpetual drafts for money, in the name of Mr. Trotter? At the time that he was anxious for the safety of what was passing through his hands, was it always lodged at Mr. Coutts's, allowing that to be the place of fittest security? No, it was employed in discounting bills, in forming speculations, in gambling on the Stock Exchange. No less than 34,000,000*l.* of the public property had passed through Lord Melville's paymaster's hands; the report stated explicitly, that upwards of 8,000,000*l.* had been in the hands of his private banker, and nearly 7,000,000*l.* more were allowed to have passed through the same channel. While Mr. Trotter was thus busy, what became of Lord Melville and his responsibility? Had Mr. Trotter's speculations failed, it was not to him, but to his lordship, that the public had to look for redress. While the people were struggling with the heaviest burdens ever laid upon them, Mr. Trotter, and his silent discreet broker, Mr. Mark Sprott, were placing their heads together to lay out the public money to the greatest advantage: and Lord Melville never interfered, never once inquired into this paymaster's proceedings. Mr. Sprott, when interrogated by the commissioners, replied that Mr. Serjeant Shepherd, and other eminent lawyers, advised him to preserve a religious silence. Lord Melville and Mr. Sprott were not quite uniform on this part of the business; Mr. Sprott said nothing; but Lord Melville acknowledged that he knew of the transactions, but not of the detail. If he knew that his paymaster was speculating in the funds, he was, at least, bound to see what was the extent of these speculations. He

ought to have felt that his responsibility was at stake, that the public money was put to hazard, and that it was time to stop so serious an evil. On the third part of the subject (the suspicion of criminal participation) Mr. Whitbread said, that Lord Melville had found Mr. Trotter clerk to the navy pay-office; he made him his paymaster, and in a short time his agent. In this situation Lord Melville had pecuniary concerns with him to a considerable amount, but was unable to tell the commissioners whether the advances made to him by Mr. Trotter were from his own or the public money. The truth was, that when Lord Melville first began to patronize him, his lordship himself knew, that though a man of good family, he had no property but what was derived from his salary; it was absolute equivocation, then, to pretend that Lord Melville could be ignorant of the source whence Trotter was enabled to supply him with advances. After contrasting the reserve of the ex-treasurer with the open disavowal made by his successors of any emolument from the application of the funds entrusted to them, Mr. Whitbread concluded by moving thirteen resolutions, founded on the circumstances which he had developed.

Mr. Pitt replied in a long and able speech, in which he remarked that there was no allegation in the report, or even in the speech, of Mr. Whitbread, that any loss to the public had been sustained by the transactions under consideration. He admitted that the subject was of a grave and solemn nature, and that if, in a great money department, irregularities had been committed, though unattended with loss, it might be the duty of the House to set a mark upon such proceedings; but all the circumstances of this case were not before them in the report, and till they were investi-

gated, the House could not be in a situation to come to any vote. He would not say that conniving at the application of the public money, for the purpose even of innocent profit to individuals, without actual loss to the state, was altogether to be justified, but our judgment should depend upon a complete knowledge of all the circumstances—upon inquiry into the mode of its employment, and the probable danger and amount of the sum employed: the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry, however, did not say that the issues to the treasurer or paymaster of the navy were greater than necessary, or that the money impressed in his hands was not forthcoming when wanted. With regard to the charge of Lord Melville having participated in the profits derived from the employment of the public money, it was particularly necessary that a more detailed examination should take place on a point which depended so much upon matters of account. On the face of the accounts, 100,000*l.* was the whole amount of the advances to Lord Melville. It was known that of all the sums of 160,000,000*l.* which had passed through the hands of his lordship, every farthing had been applied to the purposes for which it was issued, and had been regularly accounted for; and it would be found, that, of the 100,000*l.* which, on the face of the account, was paid to Lord Melville, many of the drafts were, in reality, payments for public services. If this could be made out, as he was informed it could, it was of itself a conclusive argument for further inquiry; he therefore moved that a select committee be appointed to consider the 10th report of the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry, and the documents therewith connected, that they examine the same, and report their opinion thereon to the House. At the suggestion of Mr. Fox, Mr. Pitt con-

sented, in the first instance, to move the previous question. Mr. Tierney said, that during the time he was treasurer of the navy, he felt no inconvenience from a compliance with the act of Parliament, and held that the report of the commissioners should be taken as conclusive evidence against Lord Melville. That noble lord had, in his opinion, already enjoyed as fair a trial as the nature of the case would admit of, and no committee of that House could throw any more light upon the subject. After a number of observations from the Attorney-general, Mr. Canning, the Master of the Rolls, and Lord Castlereagh, in favour of a select committee, and from Lord Henry Petty, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Wilberforce, in support of the resolutions, the House divided, when there appeared 216 votes for, and 216 against, Mr. Whitbread's motion, and the speaker gave his casting vote in its favour.

On the 10th of April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced to the House of Commons, that Lord Melville had tendered his resignation of the office of first lord of the admiralty, which his Majesty had accepted. Mr. Whitbread said, that had the issue of the debate on Monday been merely of a personal or party nature, he might have been satisfied with Lord Melville's removal from the responsibility, dignity, and emolument, attached to the situation which he had resigned, but he thought it so necessary that his lordship should be prevented from ever again polluting with his presence the councils of his sovereign, that before any other proceeding, he should move an address to the throne, praying his Majesty to deprive the noble lord of every civil office held during the pleasure of the crown, and to dismiss him from the councils of the kingdom for ever. Mr. Whitbread asked



whether Mr. Pitt was prepared to give a pledge to this effect, and whether Mr. Trotter had been dismissed. Mr. Canning replied that he had, but he did not think that the case of Lord Melville, which, at the most, amounted to no more than a bare suspicion, warranted the severity of the proceedings now proposed ; and, after a very animated conversation, Mr. Whitbread agreed to withdraw his motion, in lieu of which he moved, that the resolutions of the former night be laid before his Majesty, and that they be carried up by the whole House. On the following day they were accordingly presented, when his Majesty replied that he should, on all occasions, receive with the greatest attention, any representations of his Commons ; and he was fully sensible of the importance of the matter which was the subject of their resolutions.

On the 6th of May, Mr. Whitbread made his motion for the erasure of Lord Melville's name from the list of privy counsellors, when Mr. Pitt said he had reason to believe that the step desired by the honourable gentleman was considered, generally, as expedient ; and he had therefore felt it his duty to advise his Majesty to erase the name of Lord Melville from the list of privy counsellors ; to this advice his Majesty had acceded, and on the first day that a council should be held for general purposes, the business would be finally executed. He was not ashamed to confess that he had not given this advice without a bitter pang, but he could not suffer feelings of private friendship to interfere with what he found to be the declared sense of a majority of the House. Mr. Whitbread then inquired whether Lord Melville held any place of profit during the pleasure of the crown, and being answered none but for life, he withdrew his motion.

The Commissioners of Naval Inquiry had, in the early progress of these discussions, been sedulously occupied in the researches arising out of the 10th report: and Mr. Whitbread, in consequence of the facts which had transpired in the course of that inquiry, now declared himself justified in giving notice of an intention finally to move for an impeachment. This notice was met, on the part of Mr. Robert Dundas, son of Lord Melville, by a requisition that the noble lord should be admitted and heard by the House, on the subject of the 10th report, previously to the motion for impeachment being put. Leave to appear having been obtained from both Houses, on the 11th of June, Lord Melville, escorted by the serjeant at arms, advanced within the bar of the House of Commons, and entered upon his defence; he solemnly asserted, that he never knew that Mr. Trotter had drawn any money for the purposes of speculation, and declared that he had felt highly indignant at the charge that such transactions had been conducted with his privity, and that, in execution of them, Mr. Trotter had enjoyed the advantage of his (Lord Melville's) knowledge of the confidential secrets of government. His lordship as positively denied his participation in the profits of Mr. Trotter: he admitted, that when the money was drawn for naval purposes, he had suffered him to place it in the house of Messrs. Coutts, until it should be wanted, instead of putting it into the iron chest, or transferring it to the custody of the respective sub-accountants; but that he had ever given Mr. Trotter power to draw money from the Bank indiscriminately, was untrue. He certainly did suppose the paymaster derived a profit from the sums invested in the hands of Messrs. Coutts, but he had never considered it as a clandestine or unlawful proceeding;

and the reason he had not directly disclaimed any share in those profits, when examined before the committee, was because he had that moment been informed of the confusion in which his paymaster's accounts stood, and there was a doubt in his own mind, whether he might not, in consequence of that circumstance, unintentionally have received what was his own property, from unlawful profits. His lordship referred to two sums of about 10,000*l.* each, the circumstances relative to which he felt equally bound, by private honour and public duty, never to disclose; though he affirmed, that those sums were neither used nor meant to be employed for any object of profit by him. He had certainly directed his agent to procure for him the loan of 20,000*l.* for which he had paid regular interest; but it was not till within the last six weeks that he knew Mr. Trotter was the lender of the money. After explaining the nature of his transactions with respect to the loyalty loan, to which he subscribed the sum of 10,000*l.* his lordship said, when he destroyed all vouchers, it was because he considered them useless, and not from the most remote apprehension of danger from their existence. He could scarcely believe that an impeachment was intended; he was equally incredulous with respect to an indictment; and he did not yet despair of receiving justice from his deluded country.

Mr. Whitbread then said, the excuse offered by Lord Melville for not directly answering questions, in consequence of the mixed state of Mr. Trotter's accounts, was strange and incredible. He argued on the suspicious circumstance of refusing to give any account of the two sums of 10,000*l.*, and declared that if his lordship would refer the matter to a jury of honour, consisting of the Chancellor of the Exche-

quer, Mr. Windham, and any other person of equal integrity, he should, in case they acquitted him, feel satisfied. Mr. Whitbread concluded by moving, that Henry Lord Viscount Melville be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanours. A long debate ensued, in the course of which Mr. Bond objected to an impeachment as cumbrous and expensive, and moved, as an amendment, that his Majesty's Attorney-general be directed to prosecute Henry Lord Viscount Melville for the several offences which appear, from the report of the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry, and that of the select committee of the House of Commons, to have been committed by him. The motion for impeachment was rejected by a majority of 77, and Mr. Bond's amendment for a criminal prosecution adopted by 238 to 229 voices: it was, however, ultimately determined, on the 25th of June, that the mode of prosecution by impeachment should be resorted to, and Mr. Whitbread was appointed manager, with directions to acquaint the Lords on the following day therewith. On this occasion, Mr. Pitt delivered his last speech in the senate, and argued strongly in favour of a trial by impeachment, in preference to proceedings by a criminal prosecution.

The British cabinet was still in a divided state; and the conflicting sentiments of its members threatened to produce a partial change in the ministry, had no subject of paramount interest arisen to call them more strongly into action. It appears that, soon after the Easter recess, Lord Sidmouth suggested the propriety of removing Lord Melville from the privy council; but Mr. Pitt, wishing to avoid that measure, conceived that both Parliament and the country would be satisfied with the noble lord's resignation of his office as first lord of the Admiralty. Neither party was

disposed to yield, and Lord Sidmouth, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and Mr. Vansittart, expressed their determination to throw up their several appointments; but this extremity was for the present averted, by the erasure of Lord Melville's name from the list of the privy council, and the vote of impeachment which afterwards passed against that nobleman. However, on the 5th of July, Lord Sidmouth went out of office; and, five days afterwards, his example was followed by the Earl of Buckinghamshire. These noblemen were succeeded by Earl Camden and Lord Harrowby, while Lord Castlereagh was appointed to the foreign department, the office of first lord of the Admiralty having been previously conferred on Sir Charles Middleton, who was called to the Upper House of Parliament, under the title of Lord Barham.

The domestic events of this summer were by no means such as to assist Mr. Pitt in bearing up against the attacks of disease with which he had long been assailed. For more than four years, he had laboured under all the inconveniences resulting from a weak stomach, and the consequent failure of appetite; and it will be easily conceived, that mental anxiety is peculiarly calculated to aggravate the effects of such a disorder. This anxiety the unprosperous state of affairs on the continent tended further to increase. The continued encroachments of Buonaparte, who had crowned himself King of Italy at Milan, and annexed Genoa to France, had roused the powers of the continent to resistance, and a treaty between Russia and England had been signed at St. Petersburg on the 11th of April, to which Austria and Sweden soon acceded, and of which the object was to restore, in some degree, the balance of power in Europe, by driving the French out of Hanover and

the North of Germany; by establishing the independence of Holland and Switzerland; by restoring the King of Sardinia to his throne and territory; and by compelling the French to evacuate the kingdom of Naples, and the whole of Italy. The means by which it was proposed to accomplish this great and desirable object was, an army of 500,000 effective men, independent of the forces to be employed by Great Britain, who herself engaged to contribute to the common efforts by employing her forces both by sea and land, as well as by furnishing vessels for the transport of troops; and to assist the different powers by subsidies corresponding with the amount of their respective forces employed.

An attempt to attain the objects of the alliance by negotiation having been thought expedient, a correspondence ensued between M. Talleyrand and the ministers of Austria and Russia, during which the preparations for offensive warfare were unremittingly continued on both sides, and an appeal to arms appearing inevitable, two Russian armies of 50,000 men each advanced towards the Danube, whilst Buonaparte, in whose plans promptitude was always the leading feature, determined to strike a decisive blow at the Austrians before their arrival. Towards the close of August he proceeded to Boulogne, and ordered the flotilla in that harbour to be dismantled, and the troops to march towards the Rhine; the bulk of his force in Holland and Hanover was also directed to proceed by rapid marches to meet the Austrians on the banks of the Danube. He then repaired to Paris, and as soon as he received intelligence that the Austrian army had entered Bavaria, he convened the senate, and in a speech from the throne, stated that he was about to place himself at the head of his

army, in order to afford immediate assistance to his allies, and to defend the dearest interests of his people. On this occasion, two important decrees were proposed; the one for the immediate levy of 80,000 conscripts, and the other for re-organizing and embodying the National Guard. Having crossed the Rhine at Kehl, Buonaparte found himself at the head of 150,000 men, under the command of Marshals Bernadotte, Dayoust, Soult, Ney, and Lannes, and General Marmont, and by a series of bold and rapid movements, he gained a position between Vienna and the Austrian army under General Mack. That army, consisting of nearly 90,000 men, dispersed over a wide extent of country, was beaten in detail, and reduced to 30,000, who, with their commander, were blocked up in Ulm. On the 17th of October Mack agreed to surrender, and on the 20th the whole of the Austrian troops in that city laid down their arms before the French emperor, and, with the exception of the field officers, who were permitted to return home on their parole, surrendered themselves prisoners of war, with all their artillery and magazines. Buonaparte, having sent for the Austrian generals, and kept them near his person while the troops defiled, complained of the injustice and aggression of the emperor: "I desire nothing," said he, "on the continent. France wants only ships, colonies, and commerce; and it is as much your interest as mine that I should have them."

This disastrous opening of the campaign blighted the slender hopes which the allies had entertained of the co-operation of Prussia. Frederick William had been provoked to some show of indignation, by the march of French troops through part of the Prussian neutral territory of Anspach without asking permis-

sion, and was disposed to resent the insult; but on learning the fate of Mack's army, he relapsed into passive neutrality. Buonaparte, immediately after the capitulation of Ulm, made the most active exertions for the further prosecution of the campaign. The first division of the Russians, under the command of General Kutusoff, had already arrived upon the banks of the Inn, and united itself to the Austrians in that quarter: it was of importance, if possible, to attack this force before the arrival of the second division, and with this view the French army, having been joined by the contingents of Bavaria, Baden, and Wirtemberg, crossed the Iser at three different points, and advanced by rapid marches towards the Inn, which they also passed in the face of the allies, who, not being strong enough to resist them, retreated step by step on the road to Vienna, to effect a junction with the second Russian division, which was advancing under General Buxhovden. In this situation of affairs, the Emperor of Austria endeavoured to avert the evils with which he was menaced by negotiation, and Count de Giulay accordingly repaired to the head-quarters of the enemy at Lintz, to propose an armistice, in order that negotiations might be commenced for a general peace. Buonaparte, assuming the tone of a conqueror, demanded that the Russian forces should return home, that the Hungarian levies should be disbanded, and that the Austrian troops should withdraw from the duchy of Venice and the Tyrol. It was evident, that to accede to these terms would be to place the imperial crown at his mercy; the emperor therefore resolved still to struggle with his difficulties, and, perceiving the danger which threatened his capital, retired with his court to Brunn in Moravia.



The French occupied Vienna on the 13th of November, and found there an immense quantity of military stores and ammunition, together with a numerous artillery. On the 14th Buonaparte received a deputation of the citizens at the imperial palace, of Schoenbrunn, and told them that they might assure the people of Vienna of his protection. He passed through the city on the following day to join the main army in Moravia, which was advancing with such rapidity that the Austrian court found it necessary to remove from Brunn to Olmutz. The Russians, who had crossed the Danube at Krems, were retiring through that country to unite with the forces under the command of the emperor, and after suffering severely in two spirited actions at Hollbrunn and Guntersdorf, they retreated through Znaim to Brunn, which they were compelled to evacuate on the 18th, leaving large quantities of ammunition and provisions: Buonaparte established his head-quarters there on the 20th, and his main army took up a position at Withau, in face of the Austro-Russian army posted on the plains of Olmutz.

The Italian campaign was opened upon the Adige on the 18th of October. The Austrian army was strongly posted at Veronetta, a suburb of the city of Verona, situated upon the left bank of the river; while the French troops, under Marshal Massena, occupied the city upon the opposite bank. The communication between Verona and its suburb was by means of two bridges, and both parties had guarded against the passage of them by strong works, raised at the opposite extremities; the Archduke Charles, however, in consequence of the reinforcements which he had dispatched for the support of General Mack, found himself so far weakened, that he was not in a

condition to undertake offensive operations ; the attack was therefore begun by the French, who forced the Austrian intrenchments ; and the archduke, having obtained information of the disaster at Ulm, fell back towards Vienna. The Archduke John, severely pressed in the Tyrol, adopted the same resolution, and after encountering many difficulties, the two brothers effected a junction at Laybach in Carniola. Massena, who had advanced closely in pursuit, established a communication with the corps of Ney and Marmont, who, after the reduction of the Tyrol, approached the Danube to support the main body of the French army.

Marshal Davoust, leaving the principal part of the French army at Vienna, proceeded with his division towards Presburg, when he received overtures from Count Palfy, the governor, in the name of the Archduke Palatine, proposing that the military preparations in Hungary should be discontinued, on condition that the French general would guarantee the neutrality of that kingdom. To this proposal the marshal yielded a ready acquiescence ; and the principal resources of the house of Austria were thus reduced to the army of the Archduke Charles, and to the small force of Prince John of Lichtenstein, which had united itself to the first division of the Russian army under General Kutusoff, who, perceiving the difficulties of his situation, sent the Baron de Wintzingerode to Murat to propose terms of capitulation ; and a convention was concluded, which permitted the Russian army to retire into their own territory ; but Buonaparte, conceiving them to be in his power, refused to ratify it. In the mean time, General Kutusoff had retired with the utmost expedition to Znaim, leaving the division under Prince Bagration, consisting of

6000 men, opposed to the enemy, by whom he was surrounded with a force, 30,000 strong, when he bravely resolved to cut his way through them, and arrived with comparatively little loss at the headquarters of Wischau. The French pursued their advantages in every direction: on the 20th of November Buonaparte arrived at Brunn, and received a deputation from the Moravian states, with a bishop at their head; Ney was already master of Brixen; and Bernadotte occupied Iglau, on the confines of Bohemia. Many prisoners and much baggage fell into their hands in the various encounters; and, on the 23d, they had pushed their reconnoitring parties to the gates of Olmutz. The combined forces at that place amounted to nearly 100,000 men, of which the Russians formed the greater part, for the remnant of the Austrian army, under Prince John, did not exceed 25,000, and of these a considerable proportion were raw levies, harassed by constant exertions, dispirited by defeat, and enfeebled by continual privations. The condition of the Russian troops was still more unfavourable. Exhausted by forced marches, and reduced by hunger and fatigue, dearth, misery, and desolation, encircled the armies of the coalesced sovereigns. The provinces to a great distance around them were wasted. The total failure of provisions and forage was alone sufficient to prevent them from maintaining the position before Olmutz, or to take another station further in the rear; and no alternative remained but to commit the fortunes of the campaign to the last desperate valour of their troops. On the arrival of the Emperor of Russia in his camp, Buonaparte sent his aid-de-camp, General Savary, to compliment that prince, and to propose an interview, which he declined, but in return dispatched Prince Dobgoruski

to explain his sentiments. In the mean time Savary, who had been indiscreetly suffered to remain within the Russian lines for three successive days, had returned to the French camp, and reported that the Russian generals, in spite of the deplorable state of their troops, relied fully on themselves; and that presumption, imprudence, and indiscretion, reigned in their military councils. Availing himself of this intelligence, Buonaparte issued orders for his army to retire, as if apprehensive of an engagement with so formidable an enemy; and, in order to strengthen this impression, the retreat was made under cover of the night. The French army took up a strong position about ten miles in the rear of its former station, where the troops were throwing up intrenchments, and forming batteries, when Prince Dobgoruski made his appearance. These dispositions appear to have been attended with the desired effect. The headquarters of the Emperors of Russia and Germany were removed to Austerlitz, and M. de Kutusoff, the commander-in-chief, having ordered a powerful division to march to the left, for the purpose of turning the right flank of the French army, a general attack was commenced at day-break on the 2d of December. To accomplish its main object, the left of the allies were obliged to take a circuitous route; and Buonaparte, perceiving that it became more distant from the centre as it advanced, immediately put in motion the massive columns which he had hitherto kept together, and directed them against their main body and right wing, leaving their other division to pursue its purpose of turning the French army in a position which it had now ceased to occupy. He succeeded in completely insulating the centre of the allies, and, by possessing himself of the heights of Pratzen, decided

the fate of the day. The Russians made many brave but fruitless efforts, and at nightfall retreated upon Boscovitz, covered by the Austrian cavalry. The loss of the allies in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was estimated at a fourth part of their force, together with their artillery and baggage ; and this tremendous conflict, which was styled by the French soldiers, "the battle of the three emperors," and by Buonaparte, "the battle of Austerlitz," terminated the campaign and the war. The Austrian emperor, dismayed by his loss, solicited an immediate armistice ; and on the 4th, two days after the engagement, an interview took place at the French advanced posts, between Napoleon and the Emperor of Austria, when a suspension of arms was agreed upon, the terms of which were, that the French should remain in possession of all its conquests until the conclusion of a definitive peace, or the rupture of negotiations ; and that in the latter case, hostilities should not recommence until the expiration of fourteen days. It was further stipulated that the Russian army should evacuate the Austrian states within a limited time ; that there should be no extraordinary raising of troops ; and that negotiators should meet, without delay, to form a definitive treaty. The Emperor Alexander refused to become a party to these conditions, and on the 6th of December caused his army to withdraw from the Austrian states. Before the arrival of intelligence announcing the armistice, the Archduke Ferdinand, who commanded a corps of 20,000 Austrians in Bohemia, attacked and defeated, with considerable loss, a corps of Bavarians, under General Wrede, and was rapidly advancing in the rear of the French army. Almost at the same period the Archduke Charles advanced from Hungary, within a day's march of

Vienna, with a powerful force ; and, on summoning the city to surrender, was greatly mortified to find himself reduced to a state of inaction by the suspension of hostilities, and his country prostrate at the foot of a man, who, in the hour of triumph, suffered no generous impulse to soften his political resolves.

A definitive treaty was signed at Presburg on the 26th of December, the provisions of which were, that the Venetian territory should be united in perpetuity to the kingdom of Italy ; that the royal title assumed by the Electors of Bavaria and Wirtemberg should be acknowledged ; that the margraviate of Burgau, the principality of Eichstadt, part of the territory of Passau, the country of the Tyrol, and the lordships of Voralberg, should be ceded to the King of Bavaria ; that his possessions in Franconia, Suabia, and Bavaria, should be divided between the Kings of Bavaria and Wirtemberg, and the Elector of Baden ; that the county of Salzburg and of Berchtoldsgaden, belonging to the Archduke Ferdinand, should be incorporated with the Austrian empire, and that the archduke should receive from the King of Bavaria, in compensation, the territory of Wurtzburg. By this treaty it was estimated that the emperor lost in subjects more than 2,700,000 souls, and in revenue 16,000,000 of florins, about 1,600,000*l.* sterling ; but the diminution of power and influence which he sustained in abandoning his possessions on the side of Italy, and in relinquishing the line of country through which he formerly maintained his connection with Switzerland, was a severe stroke upon his political consequence.

A treaty between France and Prussia was also concluded at Vienna, which stipulated that Buonaparte should send no more troops into Hanover, and

that the forces of the allies should be withdrawn, and replaced by those of Prussia, who, in exchange for Hanover, ceded Anspach and Bayreuth in Franconia, Cleves in Westphalia, and Neufchatel and Valengin in Switzerland.

Whilst Buonaparte was thus successful on the continent, Great Britain was not less triumphant on her natural element. In every quarter her fleets drove the enemy before them, and fully maintained her maritime ascendancy. As early as the 11th of January, a French squadron, consisting of six sail of the line and two frigates, after having been blockaded for more than two years in Rochefort, ventured out to sea, with the view to unite itself with the more formidable force at Brest, and on the 15th the Toulon fleet, comprising eleven sail of the line, and having on board 9000 troops, also pushed out to sea without being perceived by the blockading squadron, under Lord Nelson, but after a short cruise, was obliged again to put into port through stress of weather. On the 22d of February, the force which had escaped from Rochefort, having proceeded to the West Indies, made a descent on the island of Dominica, with 4000 men, under General Le Grange; but Brigadier-general Prevost, the governor, made the most judicious dispositions for its defence, and, with the small force under his command, resisted the landing of the enemy inch by inch. The town of Roseau, after withstanding a vigorous cannonade from the enemy's ships, accidentally took fire, and was obliged to capitulate; the British general, however, made good his retreat to St. Rupert's, in which situation he was in vain summoned to surrender; and the French commander, finding the conquest so much more difficult than he had anticipated, abandoned the island, but not till he

had levied a heavy contribution on the inhabitants of Roseau. Pursuing this predatory system of warfare, the French fleet visited the islands of Nevis and St. Kitt's, both of which were also laid under contribution; but on the arrival of Admiral Cochrane in the West Indies, this marauding squadron precipitately sailed for France, where it arrived in safety.

The alarm created in the public mind, respecting the proceedings of the Rochefort squadron, had scarcely subsided, when intelligence was received that the Toulon fleet, under Admiral Villeneuve, was again at sea. On the 30th of March, this officer sailed to Carthage, with the intention of strengthening himself by the Spanish ships of the line in that port, but not finding them in a state of sufficient readiness, he continued his course unmolested to Cadiz, and being there joined by one French and six Spanish sail of the line, he directly steered to the West Indies, with an accumulated force of eighteen sail of the line, carrying, beside their full complement of seamen, 10,000 veteran troops.

On the approach of Villeneuve to Cadiz, Admiral Sir John Orde, who was blockading that port with five ships of the line, thought it prudent to retire, and succeeded in joining the English fleet off Brest, under Lord Gardner. The welcome account, however, soon arrived, that Lord Nelson, who had been cruising in the Mediterranean, was in pursuit of the enemy to the West Indies. His lordship, it is true, had only ten ships of the line to oppose the force of the hostile squadrons, but his name was a tower of strength; and such was the activity of his pursuit, that on the 15th of May he was twenty leagues to the eastward of Madeira, and on the 4th of June he arrived off Barbadoes, where he learnt that the com-



bined fleet, under Admiral Villeneuve, had reached Martinique on the 14th of May, but that the Diamond Rock was the only conquest hitherto achieved by his powerful adversary, who, after remaining nearly inactive during three weeks, hearing of the presence of the dreaded Nelson, set sail on his return without any farther attempt, and was immediately followed by his indefatigable opponent, who, having in vain sought the fugitives off Cadiz and Cape St. Vincent, in the Bay of Biscay, and on the coast of Ireland, returned to England, after dispatching nine ships of the line to reinforce Lord Gardner off Brest. Hopes were yet entertained that Villeneuve would be intercepted by Sir Robert Calder, or Admiral Collingwood, before he could reach any friendly port, and on the 22d of July, his fleet, which now amounted to 20 sail of the line, three 50 gun ships, and five frigates, fell in with Sir Robert Calder, who had only 15 sail of the line and two frigates, six leagues west of Cape Finisterre, and, after an engagement of four hours, two ships of the line, the *St. Raphael*, of 84 guns, and *El Firme*, of 74, were taken from the enemy, when Sir Robert, from the foggy state of the weather, judged it expedient to put a stop to the action, in order that his squadron might cover his captures. The night was spent by both fleets in the necessary repairs, and on the following morning the enemy seemed disposed to renew the action, but he never approached nearer the British lines than four leagues; and, on the 24th, he bore away to the south-east, under easy sail. In England, the conduct of Sir Robert Calder became the subject of so much disapprobation, that he demanded a court-martial, by which he was sentenced to be severely reprimanded, not for fear or cowardice, but for an error

in judgment, in not having done his utmost to take or destroy every ship of the enemy, which it was his duty to engage. This officer's fate was considered by the better informed as somewhat hard ; and it is a singular proof of the high confidence then existing in the naval superiority of the country, that an officer should meet reproof, who, with 15 sail, obtained a partial victory over more than 20.

The combined fleets having at Ferrol augmented their forces to 27 sail of the line, proceeded to Cadiz ; and scarcely had Lord Nelson arrived in London, after his long and persevering cruise, when he was offered the command of an armament sufficient to cope with the united naval force of France and her allies, which he willingly accepted, and, hoisting his flag on board the Victory, arrived off Cadiz on the 29th of September. To induce the enemy to quit the port and to come out to sea, he stationed his main force near Cape St. Mary, and established a line of frigates to communicate their movements. On the 19th of October, being apprized that a reinforcement of seven sail of the line would shortly join him from England, his lordship dispatched Admiral Louis with six sail to Tetuan for stores and water. Informed of this event, and supposing the English to be much reduced in strength, Admiral Villeneuve availed himself of the favourable juncture to obey the positive commands which had been issued by his government : on the next day the fleet under his command got under weigh, and at day-break on the 21st, was distinctly seen from the Victory's deck, formed in a close line of battle off Cape Trafalgar, about twelve miles to leeward of the British fleet, and standing to the south. Our fleet, which had received the expected reinforcement, consisted of 27 sail of the line, and 4 frigates ; theirs of

33 sail of the line and 7 frigates, and their superiority was greater in size and weight of metal than in numbers. Admiral Villeneuve was a skilful seaman, and his plan of defence was as well conceived, and as original, as the plan of attack. The Spaniards were commanded by Admiral Gravina; and 4000 troops were embarked on board the fleet, under the command of General Contamin, among whom were several of the most skilful sharp-shooters that could be selected, and many Tyrolese riflemen. The British fleet bore up in two columns as they formed in the order of sailing, a mode of attack which Lord Nelson had previously directed, to avoid the inconvenience and delay in forming a line of battle in the usual manner. The enemy formed with great closeness and correctness; and as the mode of attack was unusual, so the structure of their line was new; it formed a crescent convexing to leeward, so that in leading down to their centre, Lord Collingwood had both their van and rear abaft the beam. Admiral Villeneuve was in the *Bucentaure* in the centre, and the *Prince of Asturias* bore Gravina's flag in the rear; but the French and Spanish ships were mixed, without any apparent regard to order of national squadron. As the mode of our attack had been previously determined on, and communicated to the flag officers and captains, few signals were necessary, and none were made, except to direct close order as the lines bore down. The commander-in-chief, who headed the weather column, was to attack the hostile line near the centre, while Admiral Collingwood, who conducted the leeward column, was to break it if possible at a considerable distance from the extreme rear, and thus, it was hoped, the victory would be decided ere the van could be brought to succour the ships

engaged. The last telegraphic signal issued by the great commander on going into action was "England expects every man to do his duty," and nobly indeed was it performed on this glorious day, for the battle of Trafalgar is without a parallel in the annals of British victory.

The conflict began about noon, when Admiral Collingwood, in the *Royal Sovereign*, gallantly cut through the enemy's line about the twelfth ship from his rear, leaving his van unoccupied; the succeeding ships broke through in all parts a-stern of their leaders, and engaged their antagonists at the muzzles of their guns. Lord Nelson, on board the *Victory*, directed his attack on the enemy's line between the tenth and eleventh ships in the van; but finding it so close that there was not room to pass, he ordered his ship to be run on board the *Redoutable*, opposed to him; his second, the *Temeraire*, engaged the next ship in the enemy's line, and the others singled out their adversaries according to the order of battle. During nearly four hours the conflict was tremendous, particularly in that part of the line where the commander-in-chief had commenced the onset. The guns of his ship repeatedly set fire to the *Redoutable*, and the British seamen, apprehensive that both ships might be involved in destruction, were employed at intervals during the heat of the fight in throwing buckets of water on the spreading flames. About three in the afternoon, the Spanish admiral, with ten sail of the line, joining the frigates to leeward, bore away for Cadiz, and, ten minutes afterwards, five of the headmost ships of the enemy's van, under Admiral Dumanoir, tacked, and stood to windward of the British line; the sternmost was taken, but the others escaped. The heroic exertions of the British were rewarded by the capture of 19 ships of the line, with

the commander-in-chief, Villeneuve, and two Spanish admirals; but a gale of wind coming on from the south-west after the action, only four of the prizes could be saved, which were carried into Gibraltar. The *Achille*, a French 74, after her surrender, took fire and blew up; but 200 of her men were saved by the tenders. Admiral Villeneuve was sent to England, and afterwards permitted to return to France, where, as was stated by the French government, he destroyed himself, dreading the consequences of a court-martial.

In such a battle the loss on both sides must be severe, that of the victors amounted to 1500 men killed and wounded; but the deep regret which the effusion of so much brave blood cannot fail to excite, was absorbed in the greater sorrow caused by the fall of the commander-in-chief, who was mortally wounded by a musket-shot from the ship with which he was closely engaged. He survived the battle about two hours; and the pain of his last moments was soothed by the glad tidings that the hostile flags were striking around him, when, after breathing his thanks to heaven for being enabled once more to do his duty to his country, he expired without a groan. Such was the end of this great man, whose career had been eminently brilliant, and whose fate was glorious and triumphant. Before the battle began, he entertained a presentiment that this would be the last day of his life, and seemed to look for death with almost as sure an expectation as for victory; but although this gloomy foreboding occupied his mind, and though he had more than once observed that the enemy would endeavour to mark him out as one of their victims, yet his lordship, on the morning of the 21st, put on the stars of the different orders with which he had been invested. His secretary and chaplain, appre-

hensive that these insignia might expose his person to unnecessary danger, endeavoured, but in vain, to prevail upon him to take them off: to all their entreaties he replied—"In honour I gained them, and in honour I will die with them."

The survivors were gratified with the thanks of both Houses of Parliament; gold medals were awarded to those who had particularly distinguished themselves on this memorable day; and, in addition to the honours and rewards showered down upon the family of the fallen hero, the dignity of Baron, with an annuity of 2000*l.* a-year, to himself and his two next heirs, was conferred upon Vice-admiral Collingwood.

The four French ships under Rear-admiral Dumanoir, which escaped to the southward towards the close of the action off Trafalgar, after a short respite shared the fate of their companions. On the night of the 2d of November, Rear-admiral Sir Richard Strachan, cruising off Ferrol, with four ships of the line and three frigates, fell in with what he thought the Rochefort squadron, but they proved to be the fugitives from the combined fleet, to which he immediately gave chase. A little before noon on the 4th, Dumanoir, finding an engagement unavoidable, came to close action; and, after a well supported contest, continued for nearly three hours and a half, all the four ships struck to the English, but not till they had become quite unmanageable. Thus was the naval power of France and her ally reduced to insignificance; the phantoms of "ships, colonies, and commerce," which had floated before the imagination of Buonaparte, were chased from the regions of probability; and Britain was confirmed in her paramount dominion of the seas.

In India a new war was occasioned by the i

and aggressions of Jeswunt Rao Holkar, the Mahratta chief, who had usurped the dominions of his brother, and renounced his allegiance to the Peishwa. After a fruitless negociation, the troops in the Deccan, under General Wellesley, advanced against him and reduced the fortress of Chandore, while the commander-in-chief, Lord Lake, by a series of skilful and rapid movements, compelled him to risk encounters which ultimately led to his discomfiture. On the 18th of November, 1804, a large force of his infantry, occupying a strong position near Deeg, supported by a body of irregular cavalry, and by 160 pieces of ordnance, was totally routed by General Fraser, who fell in the moment of victory. On the 17th, Lord Lake surprised and defeated his cavalry near Ferruckabad, Holkar himself escaping with great difficulty from the field; and this splendid success would have decided the contest, had not the unexpected defection of the Rajah of Bhurtpore enabled the fugitive to repair his desperate fortunes. Early in 1805 Lord Lake made several attacks on the town of Bhurtpore, in all of which he was repulsed with considerable loss; but at length, an important advantage having been gained by General Smith, and a new attack on Bhurtpore being in preparation, the Rajah made proposals for peace, which was granted to him, and subsequently to Holkar, on terms favourable to the company. In July Lord Cornwallis arrived at Madras as successor to the Marquis Wellesley, but in such a reduced state of health that he died in the October following.

END OF VOL. III.















